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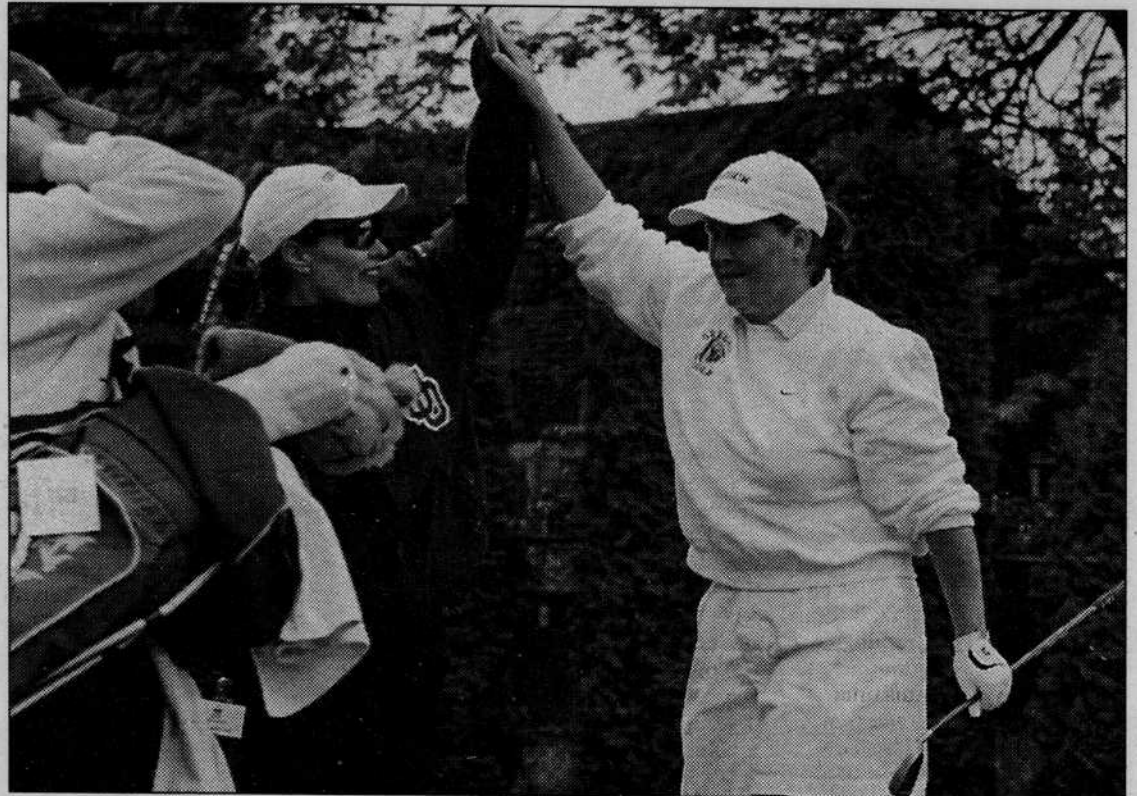
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Kevin Calame Emerald

Baumgartner (left) was Pac-10 Coach of the Year in 1997 and has led the Ducks to four NCAA Championship appearances.

## Golf coach

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was asked to take the reigns in the team's second season.

Since then, Baumgartner has spent 11 years as head coach at Oregon and two years leading her alma mater, Southern California. In that time she has made five trips to the NCAA Championships, won Pacific-10 Conference Coach of the Year honors in 1997 and had two babies to boot.

Now, the coach will become the administrator. Baumgartner takes over duties as Associate Athletic Director full-time next year and will leave her coaching career behind.

"I'm looking forward to the next chapter in my life being an administrator," Baumgartner said. "But I will always have that ounce of coach in me because of my personality."

That personality is one that drives her team but keeps them loose and having fun.

"She's just awesome with the whole team," said senior co-captain Kylie Wilson.

"She's a really good people person," Wilson's co-captain, senior Pam Sowden said.

All of Baumgartner's coaching

experience, she hopes, will translate into a successful end to this chapter in her life.

The Ducks have a few factors working for them in Sunriver. For one, they have a few players on hot streaks. Junior Jerilyn White has been playing well enough to earn a No. 77 national ranking. And senior Anika Heuser has been matching White almost stroke for stroke recently.

Second, the Ducks have played the Crosswater Golf Course before — with success.

In September, Oregon placed seventh at the NCAA Fall Preview at Crosswater. That tournament featured the top 21 teams in the country.

Finally, there is the emotion factor. Oregon has to be the only team playing in the Championships that has four graduating seniors, a talented junior and a coach with nothing to lose.

"I call [this team] my 'dream team,'" Baumgartner says. "It is the best team I've had, and I think it will show this week at Crosswater."

Although she doesn't like to talk about it, there is a footnote to this coaching chapter in Baumgartner's life, a trip she took back to USC after coaching at Oregon for

six years.

In the two years she spent at USC, she led the elite program to a second place finish in the NCAA Championships in 1994, but she found herself missing the land of rain and green trees.

"My blood's gold and green," Baumgartner says. "You don't really, truly appreciate something until you don't have it anymore. I really belong at Oregon."

Most golf coaches would have held on for dear life to a program like USC, which had 10 All-Americans in the last 20 years. In six years at USC as a player and coach, Baumgartner finished second, third and fourth in the Championships. As a coach at Oregon, she has finished better than 10th once — a seventh place finish in 1997.

Instead of riches and prestige, Baumgartner chose to build a program from scratch, a program that could reap the benefits further down the road.

"We've earned the reputation to be one of the top 20 teams in the country year-in and year-out," Baumgartner says. "I'm proud of that."

So, as the last page of this chapter is written, Baumgartner hopes her book will turn out like a Hardy Boys novel — all good in the end.



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