


CALL TO ARTISTS

The Aperture and Buzz Art Galleries are now accepting submissions for future exhibits through 2001. Community and student artists are encouraged to apply. Contact the Visual Arts Coordinator at the UO Cultural Forum at 346-0007, or email gallery@darkwing.uoregon.edu for more information.



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Receivers' coach is latest to leave the Oregon nest

■ Four coaches leave Oregon's staff after its first 10-win season in history

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

Duck coaches seem to flock to Boise State.

The price of a winning season continued to take its toll on the Oregon coaching staff, as receivers coach Chris Petersen announced Tuesday that he will resign from his six-year position and become offensive coordinator for Boise State's football team. He will also coach the Bronco quarterbacks.

Petersen's departure marks the third time since Dec. 2 that an Oregon assistant coach has left the

Ducks for Boise State. The head coach of the Broncos is Dan Hawkins, who needs one more coach to fill his staff.

The other two Oregon coaches who joined the Boise State coaching staff are Bob Gregory, three-year defensive secondary coach for the Ducks, and Romeo Bandison, a graduate assistant who will now coach the Broncos' defensive line.

Now in his 15th year as an intercollegiate coach, Petersen's first coaching job was with the junior varsity team at UC Davis, his alma mater, in 1987. He became the receivers coach at UC Davis in 1989 and remained there until coaching Pittsburgh's quarterbacks for one season in 1992.

Petersen returned to the West

Coast in 1993 and spent two years coaching quarterbacks at Portland State, where he helped the Vikings advance to the NCAA Division II playoffs both seasons.

He joined the Oregon staff as receivers coach in 1995.

Also gone from the Ducks' coaching staff is tight ends coach/special teams coordinator Tom Osborne, who rejoins former Oregon offensive coordinator Dirk Koetter as an assistant head coach at Arizona State.

Koetter was hired from Boise State to replace former Sun Devil coach Bruce Snyder.

The 40-year-old Osborne was a member of Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti's original staff in 1995.

Rodriguez sorts through hype over biggest contract in sports

■ Alex Rodriguez has had to answer critics about why he deserves so much money

By Stephen Hawkins
The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Alex Rodriguez doesn't feel guilty about having the richest contract in sports history.

"Somebody wins a lottery and

they're a national hero. Somebody works their butt off and he's a devil," Rodriguez, the Texas Rangers' \$252 million shortstop, said Tuesday. "I've made the progression to this point and I can't feel guilty.

"It's something that doesn't really concern me. I'm here to play baseball. That's what I love to do."

Rodriguez was back at The Ballpark in Arlington, this time as a model as the Rangers unveiled new uniforms.

The 25-year-old All-Star, who has a .309 average over seven seasons, was in the same room where he was introduced last month after agreeing to the 10-year contract, the richest in sports history.

"My lifestyle hasn't changed," said Rodriguez, who reportedly played cards for \$5,000 a hand on New Year's eve. "I've been spoiled a long time. I have been making money and had everything I wanted. Now I have an opportunity and a platform to help other people. I have a lot of plans."

Since the contract was announced during baseball's winter meetings, Rodriguez has been under intense scrutiny. He's had to answer critics who question his high price and say such contracts will ruin baseball.

Then there are the expectations from the Rangers — both front office personnel, new teammates and fans — that he is the missing piece for a team that has never won a playoff series. Texas was 71-91 and at the bottom of the AL West last season after winning the division title three of the previous four years.

"Since I was 14 and told I was going to be a No. 1 draft pick, I've had a billboard over my head I've always had to live up to," Rodriguez said. "I'm not saying I excel at it, but with practice I feel comfortable with it. For good or bad, I'm here."

The Rangers have raised prices at The Ballpark about \$2 a ticket. While this is the fifth straight year with a price increase, the latest hike wasn't determined until after the Rodriguez contract.

"Most ticket prices in most ballparks are going up," Rodriguez said. "Look at football and basketball, baseball is still the cheapest

ticket around. And ticket prices are not really directed to salaries."

Rodriguez is very clear with his answers, and remains cordial and sharp even after repeated questions about the money.

While he has continued his own workouts during the offseason, Rodriguez said he can't wait to get to Florida for spring training. There the focus will be on baseball, not business.

"Once spring training starts, I'm not going to talk about it," he said. "I can't wait. There is a lot of anticipation. I always love playing."

Rodriguez said he felt much more comfortable in the redesigned Rangers home uniform than a designer suit, such as the one he wore a Texas jersey over

“It's something that doesn't really concern me. I'm here to play baseball. That's what I love to do.”

Alex Rodriguez
Shortstop
Texas Rangers

during his introduction four weeks ago.

"He looks great in that uniform. I can't wait until it's for real," said first baseman Rafael Palmeiro, who modeled the new Texas road uniform. "He has stepped right in for this organization and put us on a different echelon with the great teams in baseball."

Palmeiro, the highest paid Ranger last season at \$8.62 million, is impressed with how Rodriguez has handled the situation.

"He's handled it as good as anybody can handle it," Palmeiro said. "You have to focus on the game, not the money aspect. That is not his concern. He is preparing to play."

And he's preparing to settle down. Unlike his seven seasons in Seattle with the Mariners, Rodriguez plans to live year-round in the area he plays for. He's even buying a house for the first time.

He should be able to find something in his price range.

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