

# UO, OSU eager to announce recruiting classes

Oregon State's 41-9 rout of Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl not only put the Beavers into the national spotlight, it helped coach Dennis Erickson get into the homes of recruits that once were hopelessly beyond the school's reach.

Oregon State, which went 11-1 and finished fourth in the final Associated Press rankings, is sure to have the best recruiting class in school history when high school and junior college players begin turning in letters of intent Wednesday.

"It's just clear that a lot of the kids think of Oregon State as an entirely different proposition now," said Allen Wallace, editor and publisher of SuperPrep magazine, which predicts OSU's class will be among the top 15 in the country. "Now they're seen as a team that could literally humiliate Notre Dame in the Fiesta Bowl. The landscape has really

changed."

Erickson, who in 1999 led Oregon State to its first winning season since 1970 and could make a run for his third national championship in the next few years, said the difference between recruiting now and when he took the job has been amazing.

"The quality of recruit we're talking to is a tremendous upgrade from two or three years ago. It's hard to describe," he said.

Down the road in Eugene, Ore., coach Mike Bellotti also is expecting another solid class. The Ducks went 10-2, including a win over Texas in the Holiday Bowl, and finished No. 7 in the final rankings.

"If we get everyone we think we're going to get, it will be an outstanding class," Bellotti said.

What both Oregon and Oregon State are getting, for a change, is the

best talent in the state. In 1999, the prep players listed as the top five in the state all went elsewhere: Luke Staley of Tualatin chose Brigham Young, Marc Jackson of Crescent Valley picked Illinois, Bryce Bohlander of McNary went to UCLA, and Troy Polamalu of Douglas and Chad Cook of Jesuit both went to USC. Last year, top prospects Brett Elliott of Lake Oswego and Tom Hackenbruck of Mountain View went to Utah, while David Bergeron of Lakeridge chose Stanford.

At the top of both team's lists are homegrown quarterbacks. Oregon State received a verbal commitment from Derek Anderson of Scappoose. The 6-foot-6, 232-pound Anderson, whom SuperPrep calls the No. 2 quarterback in the nation, passed for 8,372 yards and 88 touchdowns in three seasons, and led the Indians to the Class 3A title last fall.

After an expected redshirt season, Beaver fans are hoping Anderson can become the successor to starting quarterback Jonathan Smith in 2002.

"I'll do my best, and if it doesn't happen, it doesn't happen," Anderson said.

Oregon's top recruit, among its expected 19, is Burns quarterback Kellen Clemens, rated No. 3 by PrepStar magazine. The 6-foot-2, 195-pound player threw for 3,226 yards and 37 touchdowns last season, leading Burns to the 3A semifinals.

Erickson also is expected to land Sprague defensive end Bill Swancutt, the 4A defensive player of the year, as well as running back Steven Jackson, who rushed for 2,764 yards and 34 touchdowns at Eldorado High in Las Vegas.

Oregon received a verbal commitment from receiver Phillip Good-

man, a 6-foot-3 receiver from Vallejo, Calif., who was rated the eighth-best receiver on the West Coast by PrepStar. The Ducks still are trying to land Hawaiian Lyle Maiava, a 300-pound defensive lineman who reportedly was waffling between Oregon and Wisconsin.

Bellotti, who was courted by Southern California and visited Ohio State before deciding to stay with Oregon, doesn't think the uncertainty over his job status adversely affected recruiting.

"The initial indecision created potentially some questions in the minds of some recruits," he said. "At the same time, my reasons for staying here created some publicity that probably helped us in some regards. It put Oregon in a better light."

The Associated Press

# Mumme steps down as Kentucky head football coach

By Steve Bailey  
The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Kentucky football coach Hal Mumme resigned Tuesday following months of investigation into possible NCAA violations.

Mumme was replaced by Guy Morriss, an assistant coach at Kentucky with more than 15 years of NFL playing and coaching experience. Morriss was given a one-year contract, athletic director Larry Ivy said at a news conference.

"I met with coach Hal Mumme this afternoon and officially accepted his resignation as head football coach," Ivy said.

The move came the day before

high school players are allowed to sign letters of intent with college programs.

Mumme was 20-26 in four seasons with the Wildcats. He has made no public comment since the school began an internal investigation in November regarding recruiting.

Former assistant coach and recruiting coordinator Claude Bassett in January admitted to sending \$1,400 in money orders to a Memphis, Tenn., high school football coach and improperly cashing a \$500 check donated by a booster to help fund Mumme's summer football camp.

Ivy told the school's board of

trustees last month that the investigation had uncovered several violations, some of which would be deemed major by the NCAA. He said at the time there had been no evidence linking Mumme to any of the violations.

Since that announcement, several newspaper reports said that Kentucky assistant coaches had asked boosters for money to help pay for recruits to attend Mumme's football camps, a violation of NCAA rules. The school could not provide proof that nearly 20 recruits, including Kentucky Mr. Football Montrell Jones, paid the fee to attend Mumme's camp last summer.

Morriss has spent the last four seasons at Kentucky after one year at Mississippi State. An All-Southwest Conference guard at Texas Christian, Morriss played 15 seasons in the NFL — 11 in Philadelphia and four with New England.

Morriss coached with New England and Arizona in the NFL and had stints at Valdosta State and with San Antonio of the Canadian Football League.

The 48-year-old Mumme was a virtually unknown head coach at Division II Valdosta State when he was hired by former athletic director C.M. Newton in 1997 to replace Bill Curry, who was fired after a 26-52 record in seven years

at Kentucky.

An offensive innovator, Mumme brought with him a wide-open passing attack that showcased the talents of quarterback Tim Couch. Under Mumme, Couch rewrote the Southeastern Conference record book and became the top pick in the 1999 NFL draft.

"Mummeball," as his aggressive style of play became known, ignited renewed fan interest in a languishing program. Following a 5-6 record his first season, the Wildcats went 7-5 and 6-6 the next two years and played in back-to-back bowl games — a feat accomplished only twice previously in the 109-year history of the program.

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