



Tom Patterson Emerald

Junior Carli Halligan, senior Lisa Dohrmann and senior Annie Pogue were three main reasons the Oregon club volleyball team secured the coveted national championship trophy. Pogue was awarded the tournament's Most Valuable Player honor.

Volleyball

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national championship.

The game ended in dramatic fashion when Oregon senior Annie Pogue scored the final point on a spike that hit a Purdue player dead in the face and knocked her off her feet.

"Our team has so much tenacity," said Pogue, a former member of the Oregon varsity volleyball

program. "We knew we were going to win as long as we just kept fighting."

Pogue was honored for efforts as the tournament's Most Valuable Player. Oregon also had two first team all-tournament players in senior Lisa Dohrmann and junior Carli Halligan.

Those who witnessed Oregon's games through the tournament were amazed at the level of play shown.

"I have never seen a women's

team that worked so well and had no flaws," Oregon men's club volleyball coach Vince Butera said.

The future is bright for Oregon, as it will have five returning starters and two returning All-Americans while losing only one senior.

"All in all, I like the way the team played as a team," Banner said. "It's a team sport, and they played as team and that is what mattered."

Runge

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ed Press.

Iowa State head coach Bill Fennelly said he is "positive" the incident did not happen.

"The situation at Oregon is chaotic at best," Fennelly said. "It appears they are out to get Jody, so whatever they can dig up, they are digging up."

Also in 1996, Runge refused to renew the scholarship of Kristin Niemann, who sat out most of the 1995-96 season with a shoulder injury. Niemann and her attorney, Michael Seidl, protested, and a settlement was reached with the University. Both Niemann and Seidl have been interviewed by the representatives from Bond, Schoeneck & King.

Seidl described Niemann's relationship with Runge as "emotional terrorism."

"This was not a situation of a player having a normal kind of problem with a coach," Seidl told The Oregonian.

From the beginning, the 2000-01 season was unpredictable. From Shaquala Williams' season-ending injury to the demand that Runge be fired, not much went right. But, in the end, the Ducks still made an eighth straight NCAA Tournament appearance.

When the eight still — and perhaps forever — unidentified players met with Moos, the reaction was simple: why now? The team had just swept a weekend series against two of the top teams in the Pacific-10 Conference.

The players, however, wanted to make it clear why the team had

been so successful in recent years.

"Jody was not listening and that was a concern to [the players]," Moos said in a March 5 conference call. "As I understood it, they had an issue with belittling and private matters being aired out in the media when they had not been addressed on a one-on-one basis."

Although there have been public disagreements in the past, none of the players has spoken publicly about Runge since the meeting.

Little has been said in the past two weeks. Moos is unavailable for comment, and Runge cannot be reached.

All eyes are on Bond, Schoeneck & King.

"We have not seen anything yet," University spokeswoman Pauline Austin said Monday. "It's really in the hands of the consultants. We're not crowding them."

It's no secret that Runge and the Athletic Department have been at odds since she's been here. From the lawsuits to the arguments, the two sides have had little to say about one another.

In an in-depth feature on Runge in last year's Emerald, Moos didn't have much to offer in regard to Runge's impressive career.

"Her record speaks for itself," he said, referring to the coach's .687 winning percentage.

But surely something has to be said — soon. How long can the players hold their breaths? How long can Runge not know her future? How long can a program essentially go without a coach?

So many questions to be answered. So few responses.

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