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Bob Welch  
The Register-Guard

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## Erickson

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Miami, where he went 63-9 over six seasons and won two national championships. But Erickson's reign at Miami was tarnished by off-field problems, and he left Florida for the NFL's Seattle Seahawks in 1995.

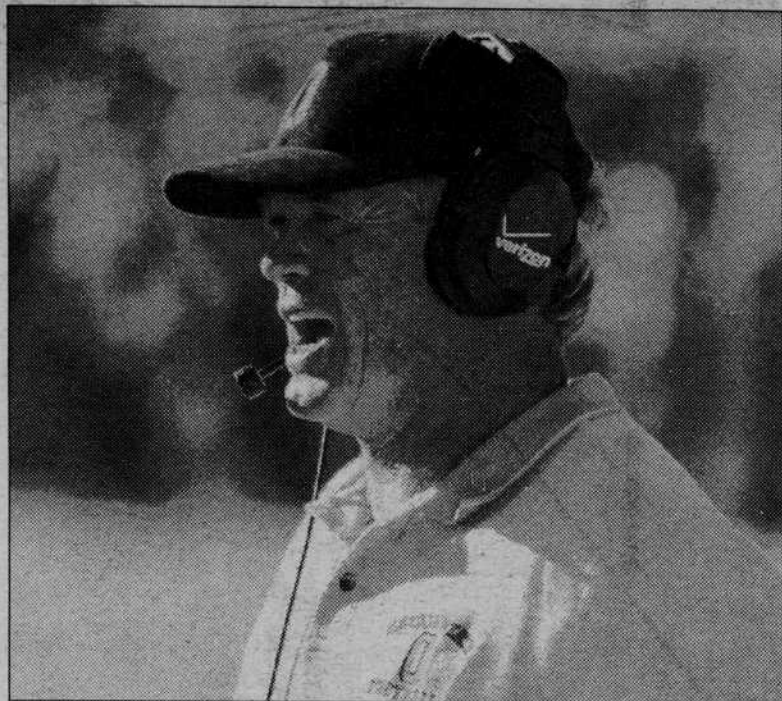
Erickson's biggest project has been the Beavers. He has coached a group of players that he didn't even recruit — and turned them into winners.

"When you talk about this turnaround — and we'll keep it going, there's no question in my mind — you talk about (this year's seniors) and the seniors before them and the seniors before them," Erickson said.

The pinnacle of Erickson's time in Corvallis was the Beavers' appearance in the Fiesta Bowl last year. The win over Notre Dame came on the heels of Oregon State's victory in the Civil War, which was Erickson's first win in the long-standing rivalry.

He was quick to point out that last year's game means next to nothing this year.

"You can look at last year's game or the year before's game and have an idea of what (the teams') philosophies are," Erickson said. "But when you're dealing with different people, different day, different emotion, different stadium — it's different."



Courtesy Oregon State Media Services

Erickson has coached at five different colleges and for one pro team. He won two national championships at Miami but says his biggest project is the Oregon State team.

If Erickson's team can beat the Ducks, his Beavers will most likely go to the Humanitarian Bowl in Boise, Idaho. It would be a far cry from the Fiesta Bowl, but it would be the postseason all the same.

For last season's CUNSI.com national coach of the year, the season has been exasperating.

"We've been inconsistent, especially early in the year," Erickson

said. "We didn't play as well as I thought we would. But we're where we're at. There's nothing we can do about it."

For the coach who turned it all around, there can only be more turnarounds in the future.

Emerald sports reporter Peter Hockaday can be reached at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.

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