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Sports briefs

Kent a finalist for Coach of the Year

Oregon men's basketball coach Ernie Kent has been named one of 20 finalists for the 2002 Naismith College Basketball Coach of the Year, Executive Director of the Atlanta Tipoff Club Jackie Bradford announced Wednesday.

Kent, who has guided the 15th-ranked Ducks to an 18-7 record this season and has his team tied for first in the Pac-10, is in his fifth season at Oregon and has the Ducks on track for their third postseason bid in the last four years.

In his fifth year with the Ducks, Kent has an 86-56 overall record. His 11-year coaching record is 176-136.

The Naismith College Coach of the Year will be announced April 5 in Atlanta.

Another starter leaves Oregon State

For the second time this week, a starter from the Oregon State men's basketball team has left the program.

It was announced Wednesday that junior forward Brian Jackson had left the team. Junior Jimmie Haywood, a starting guard, left Ore-

gon State on Sunday.

Jackson was the team's second-leading scorer (11.7) and rebounder (3.9). He was also second on the team for field goal attempts per minutes played and for overall field goal attempts per game. Jackson ranked among the Pac-10 Conference leaders for field goal percentage (.551) and free throw percentage (.802).

"Brian indicated to me that he was leaving because he felt there was too much pressure being put on him by our fans, and he desired more of a heightened role in our offensive scheme," Oregon State head coach Ritchie McKay said. "We certainly wish Brian the best in his future endeavors."

Jackson started 70 of 76 career games he appeared in at Oregon State. He missed three games this season due to an abdominal strain injury, did not play five contests his freshman season with a bruised knee, and was limited in other games due to various ailments over his more than two-year career. Foul problems were continually an issue for Jackson as well, as he was disqualified 17 times in 52 games over the last two seasons.

Jackson arrived on the OSU campus in the fall of 1999 from Knappa

High School in Knappa, Ore., where he led the Loggers to a pair of state 2A titles. Jackson was a three-time all-state selection and the 2A Player of the Year twice. He left Knappa as the state's second all-time leading scorer with 2,515 points.

Women's tennis hosts Nevada today

The Oregon women's tennis team looks to continue a hot start to its season today with a 5 p.m. match against Nevada at the Student Tennis Center.

Coming off consecutive losses to No. 7 Arizona State and No. 43 Arizona last weekend, 59th-ranked Ducks head into today's match with a 6-3 overall record.

Nevada (2-3 overall) is 1-1 on the road this season, including a 4-3 win over Santa Clara and a 6-1 loss to No. 14 California. The Wolf Pack are led by senior Tjasa Jezernik, who is 4-1 in singles play this year.

The Ducks swept the doubles matches against Arizona and Arizona State last weekend before faltering in singles play.

Oregon jumps back into Pacific-10 Conference play this weekend, hosting No. 12 Washington on Saturday and No. 29 Washington State on Sunday.

— from staff and wire report

Seniors

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action in 26 of 28 games as a junior. This season, though, he's averaging just over nine minutes per game in 15 appearances.

"As a player, you can't be content with not playing, because if you're that way then you probably don't deserve to be there," Lindquist said. "But we're in a great position right now as a team and I don't understand how anyone can complain about it."

Lindquist cites his marriage as one of the main reasons for the positive attitude he's kept.

"If I wasn't married and in this same situation, I might not handle it the same way," he said. "It's helped me be more unselfish. You have to realize that there's two people in your marriage and you have to give up some of yourself. That's closely related to basketball. You have to think about the other guys and the goals of the team."

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent has noticed the sacrifices that both Lindquist and Michaelis have had

to take. Kent credits them with adding "character balance" to the Ducks and values their leadership and team-first mentality.

"Because of their backgrounds and that they're married, it has matured them beyond their years," Kent said. "They're going to be extremely successful in life. It's extremely tough for anybody to sit on the bench and it's tough for a coach to look down there and see them sitting."

"But they may still have the opportunity to help us win some games and get into that postseason tournament, which is a reward for everybody."

Lindquist remembers well the feeling of being a part of Oregon's 2000 NCAA Tournament team. Michaelis also has fond memories of that team, but he wasn't able to participate as he was sitting out the mandatory one year after transferring from Brigham Young.

Now, they'd love to end their careers as Pac-10 champs and have their final games come in the Big Dance.

"This is an exciting time," Lindquist said. "All I care about is getting that big fat ring for the con-

ference championship."

When the season does come to an end, both Michaelis and Lindquist will gracefully move into the next phase of their lives. Michaelis and Amanda aren't sure where they'll end up, but they wouldn't mind staying in Oregon.

"We just love Eugene," said Amanda, who works for a local accounting firm. "My favorite part is all the support this community has for the team."

Lindquist hopes to land an internship with Nike in Portland, but foresees that he and Joy may move back to their hometown of St. George, Utah, where they met while in high school.

"I look back on my time here and I've certainly come a long ways, not just basketball-wise, but off the court," Lindquist said. "I'll always cherish these years and have a great deal of appreciation for it."

Said Michaelis: "It's been an honor to play here."

And they both feel fortunate to have had their partners in life along for the ride.

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