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Oregon signs new softball head coach

Kathy Arendsen has had playing and coaching careers described as 'nothing short of amazing'

By Brad Schmidt
 Oregon Daily Emerald

The Athletic Department announced Wednesday that its search to find a new leader for the Oregon softball team ended with the hiring of former collegiate pitching star and former Mississippi State head coach Kathy Arendsen.

Standing next to his prized signee in the Casanova Center, Athletic Director Bill Moos looked minuscule next to the 6-foot-3-inch frame of the 43-year-old Arendsen, a coach who thus far has compiled a record of 374 wins in her 13 seasons and who hopes to add to that total with Oregon.

"It's a tremendous honor and privilege to join this magnificent University and outstanding athletic program," said Arendsen, who resigned Tuesday as head coach of Mississippi State's softball team. "I felt that this is the right place for me to be."

Hoping to restore success in Eugene, Arendsen said she hopes to build on Oregon's strongest point — solid hitting.

"I know there's some great players here," she said. "It's just a matter of us getting a stable program, something that (the players) can count on."

Arendsen said she had a chance to play every team in the Pacific-10 Conference while at Mississippi State — except Oregon. Nonetheless, Arendsen said she is familiar with Oregon's players and added that she hopes to aid in the development of what is currently lackluster pitching.

"Our intent is to be in a position where we can compete realistically for a conference championship," Moos said of Arendsen's hiring. "And in the sport of softball, if we can be competitive in that regard, we can certainly be competitive at the national level."

In her 13 seasons as a head coach at Western Connecticut State, Eastern Illinois, Yale and Mississippi State, Arendsen has had only one losing season.

Moos praised Arendsen's tenure at Mississippi State and called her background "nothing short of amazing." He added that he hopes to see his newly-signed coach make an immediate impact, both on and off the field.

"Kathy's got, of course, a tremen-



Brad Schmidt Emerald

Athletic Director Bill Moos announced Wednesday that former Mississippi State softball head coach Kathy Arendsen will take over Oregon's softball team, which went 24-30 this past season. Arendsen has a career winning-percentage of .573 in 13 seasons.

dous reputation and a very recognizable name in softball," Moos said. "I think that will help immediately in the recruiting process and also with our current players."

Mississippi State Athletic Director Larry Templeton said Arendsen was very upfront in her decision to leave the school and added that he thought she was looking for another challenge.

"She wouldn't have gone just anywhere," he said. "We'll miss her."

Arendsen joins an Oregon team that went 24-30 this past season but won only two of 21 games in the competitive Pac-10. Arendsen's coaching duties began immediately Wednesday as she called Oregon players over the phone to speak briefly with each and to introduce herself.

The hiring of Arendsen marks

Oregon's third softball coach in as many years. Rich Gamez resigned in October 2001 after an audit showed a \$5,700 discrepancy in the team's travel fund. Arendsen takes over for Brent Rincon, who served as Oregon's interim head coach this past season.

"It took a very special opportunity for me to leave," said Arendsen, who admitted she was sad to leave Mississippi State.

So does that mean Arendsen will have mixed emotions on Aug. 31, when Oregon will take on Mississippi State in the football season-opener?

"No way! I'm a Duck fan," she said with a laugh. "I'll be pulling for the home team without a doubt."

Contact the sports editor at bradschmidt@dailyemerald.com.

UO's admission standards will increase in 2003

The University announced Monday that students will need to have a 3.25 GPA and 16 credits of college preparatory courses in order to be accepted

By Jenni Schultz
 Oregon Daily Emerald

For the first time in 10 years, students applying to the University for the 2003-04 school year with a less than a 3.25 GPA will not be guaranteed admission.

The University announced Monday that the minimum GPA required for guaranteed admission will increase from 3.0 to 3.25 as well as at least 16 rather than 14 credits of college preparatory courses.

This change marks a response from the University to the increase in enrollment over the past decade and to the decrease in state funding.



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Raising admission standards has been a topic of conversation for the University for some time, but administrators weren't expecting to have to implement any changes so soon.

"We have talked about (raising standards) for years," University President Dave Frohnmayer said. "(The rise in enrollment) caught us two or three years before we predicted," he said. "We weren't expecting enrollment to be more than 20,000 until 2004 or 2005."

Frohnmayer does think that the change in admission standards might eventually provide a better image for the school. "A school's reputation is increased by the school maintaining high standards," he said.

Frohnmayer attributes the rise in enrollment to the fact that the number of high-school graduates is increasing and that "the University is a very desirable place to attend," he said.

North Eugene High School Principal Peter Tromba was distressed by the news of the requirements and is worried about what the changes will do to his students.

"We'll definitely end up sending some of our students to Lane (Community College) or OSU," he said. "Out of all four high schools, we struggle the most with admission requirements."

Tromba also believes changes like this will result in grade inflation. For example, if a student has a 3.2 and needs an A in a chemistry class to get a GPA boost, it would be difficult for a teacher to turn that student down, he said.

Along with the increase in GPA, students must now also have 16 credits of college prep courses for guaranteed admission. Previously, students only needed a 3.0 GPA and 14 college prep credits.

Assistant provost for enrollment management at Oregon State University Bob Bontrager said that the changes "make sense."

"We're both in very similar situations, and we both have to make some hard choices," he said.

OSU is looking at making some similar modifications, but officials are also piloting a new "writing instrument that will determine the level of motivation and experience in overcoming obstacles of the applicant," Bontrager said. "GPA by itself doesn't have much predictive validity," he added.

Although the alterations will affect 10 percent of his students, South Eugene High School Assistant Principal Larry Soberman is in favor of the changes.

"It's a good move for the University — for it to continue to become a top-quality University," he said.

Frohnmayer is hopeful that the new standards will increase the value of education at the University.

"Hopefully, this will do what raising GPA standards and test scores did for intercollegiate athletics," he said.

Contact the managing editor at jennischultz@dailyemerald.com.

Kitzhaber decries budget plan specifics

The governor said he doesn't agree with taking money from school trust funds or issuing bonds against a cigarette tax

By Jan Montry
 Oregon Daily Emerald

As the world turns, so does the state budget battle.

At a press conference Tuesday, Gov. Kitzhaber announced that he believed the latest legislative budget proposal is "fiscally irresponsible."

"(Legislators used) extraordinarily complicated actuarial maneuvers that make the kind of accounting you saw with WorldCom and Enron seem relatively simple in comparison," Kitzhaber said.

During the press conference,

Kitzhaber specifically named aspects of the proposal he disagrees with but refrained from announcing whether



KITZHABER

he will pass or veto them — a decision he plans to make Thursday. The governor said he disputes issuing bonds against a cigarette tax (House Bill 4056), taking money from a school trust fund (HB 4055) and letting

schools borrow funds from future budgets (Senate Bill 1022).

"I think we need to ask ourselves, when the nation is expressing outrage at corporate bookkeeping prac-

tices, should the state of Oregon adopt essentially the same practices?" he said.

Democratic Sen. Susan Castillo of Eugene, who will be the state schools superintendent next year, said she would have liked to see more long-term compromises in the proposal.

"I'm hoping (Kitzhaber) does sign what he does support and leaves his name off the parts he doesn't support," she said. Castillo added that she will continue to fight educational cuts in the event of a fourth special session.

Democratic Leader Kate Brown of Portland said she doesn't agree that the budget is fiscally irresponsible because it adds an additional \$320 in revenue for the 2003-2005 biennium.

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New UO admission standards

On Monday the University announced changes to the current admissions policy. Students must now meet the following requirements to be guaranteed admission:

Previous GPA: 3.0
 Current GPA: 3.25
 Previous College Prep credits: 14
 Current College Prep credits: 16