

Sports brief

Athletic Department names new women's tennis head coach

The Athletic Department announced this past week that Nils Schyllander, who served as assistant women's tennis coach for the past three years, has now stepped up and filled the vacant position of head coach.

Schyllander takes over a program that went 14-11 this past year, advanced to the NCAA Tournament and finished the year ranked No. 33 nationally — the highest ranking in the program's 29-year history.

He replaces Jack Griffin, who, citing family reasons, resigned June 30.

Schyllander said he has already spoken with players and that they seem just as excited as he is about the upcoming season. He also said the recruits coming to Oregon next

year are among the school's best ever. So, despite this past season's success, Schyllander said the team is far from satisfied.

"I expect us to keep building on the success we had," Schyllander said.

At the age of 30, Schyllander — now the eighth women's tennis coach in Oregon history — has a diverse resume. He has mentored four nationally ranked junior tennis players, coordinated administrative aspects for the Sam Olsen Professional Academy and served as an assistant coach at Northern Arizona University.

Schyllander, a native of Tessinkolan, Sweden, takes over an Oregon squad that will return five letter winners from this past year's team.

"It's going to be a young team but also a very athletic team," Schyllander said.

—Brad Schmidt

Kent

continued from page 5

The USA squad will open play Wednesday against the Dominican Republic and follow up their performance Thursday against Mexico and Friday against Argentina. Schedules remain undetermined for semifinal games, which will be held Saturday and Sunday.

The tournament — now a precursor to the FIBA Junior World Championships — is held every four

years and has been dominated by the USA team since its inception in 1990. The team holds a 21-game winning streak in the tournament.

The USA team has also fared well in World Championship games, finishing 7-1 in 1999 and earning a silver medal. The team has an overall record of 38-9 all-time in World Championship competitions and has won three gold medals.

Contact the sports editor at bradschmidt@dailymerald.com.

Schmidt

continued from page 5

the draft — No. 3, to be exact.

In the aftermath, Oregon had preseason quarterback workouts between two backups — AJ Feeley and Harrington — each of whom had a small amount of experience, medium promise and large shoes to fill.

And amid the quarterback uncertainties, running back Reuben Droughns — a bruising transfer student — returned for his second season with the Ducks. Marshaun Tucker and Tony Hartley — a pair of experienced receivers — returned as worthy targets. And Keenan Howry — an up-and-coming wide out — stepped in to make big plays.

Today, the Ducks are without Harrington — their starting quarterback — because he now resides in Detroit — a Midwest city — after entering the NFL draft and being selected — as the No. 3 pick.

Despite this, Oregon returns On-

Oregon 2002 preseason rankings

Athlon: 25
AJC: 8
Blue Ribbon: 20
CBS Sportsline: 14
CNNSI: 7
College Football News: 13
College Sports: 14

Football News: 24
FOX Sports: 16
Lindy's: 15
NationalChamps.net: 8
Phil Steele: 18
Pigskin Post: 8
Sporting News: 20
Street & Smith's: 9
Average ranking: 14.6
SOURCE: www.collegesports.com.

terrio Smith — a gifted transfer student — for his second season at running back. Howry and Jason Willis now star as dominant weapons — the duo is recognized as battle-tested. And Samie Parker — the wide out with blazing speed — should come in and make things happen when they count most.

Go ahead, dish out the starting quarterback position to the older, more experienced Jason Fife — Oregon gave Feeley the benefit of the doubt three years ago. And come midseason, throw in the

younger, more exciting Kellen Clemens if he's needed — the Ducks did the same in 1999 with Harrington.

Chalk it up either way, it honestly doesn't matter.

Duck football is in good hands — history says so.

So where's Joey, you ask? Joey? Joey who?

Contact the sports editor at bradschmidt@dailymerald.com. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

Debt

continued from page 5

However, the Athletic Department does expect the Autzen expansion to help increase revenues and eventually, reserves.

"If we were not expanding the stadium, we would be running into the point where costs in-

currred would be more than income," Larson said.

Oregon's previous capacity restrictions mirror Oregon State's problems, Larson said. Even with an upgraded football program, the small capacity of Reser Stadium has limited the school's revenue potential.

Oregon State is well aware of its predicament. McCambridge said

talks to expand Reser Stadium have become "fairly serious" and added that he hopes to see the stadium's capacity increase from about 35,000 to about 45,000.

And that move could possibly keep Oregon State's Athletic Department out of debt for good.

Contact the sports editor at bradschmidt@dailymerald.com.

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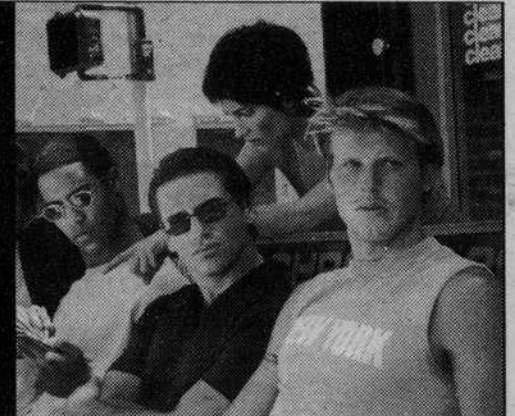
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