

Volleyball coach should follow players out the door

The way I look at this Oregon volleyball team is kind of like the way a child looks at a Van Gogh.

"Mommy, I could paint a better picture than that."

Mr. Moos, I could coach this Oregon volleyball team better than that.

It's time for volleyball coach Carl Ferreira to pull a Van Gogh and cut the proverbial ear off his program.

It's time for Ferreira to quit. Or be fired.

The fact that he hasn't yet been axed is a small miracle in itself. Five players left or were released from his program for various, undisclosed reasons last week. Four were juniors.

One was a sophomore. Ferreira's team will look like an anorexic teenager next season with all the players he's lost.

And yet Ferreira, presumably, will still roam the sidelines. He escaped the ugly situation with a slap on the back of the head — a "couple weeks away" from the program, in



Peter Hockaday
Two minutes for crosschecking

his words. The athletic department may as well have told him to sit in the corner of Athletic Director Moos' office and take a 15-minute "time out."

But that's partly our fault in the media. It took us here at the Emerald a while to break the story, and The Register-Guard, preoccupied with a felon football recruit, didn't publish a story on the volleyball walkout until today.

That's a shame. This is a big story, and it illuminates the local media's bias toward football and basketball.

But it's partly the fault of our readers. Five players walk out on the volleyball program, and there are no letters to any editors, no outraged

response, no thirst for more information on the part of our readership.

As a student at this university, don't you have a right to know what's going on with your athletic department? Don't you want to know?

Five players have left the Oregon volleyball team, and, personally, I want to know why. For that matter, I also want to know why Shaquala Williams was kicked off the women's basketball team. And why Roderkus Wright was suspended from the football team in the fall.

I'm not going to pretend that we have professional teams here at Oregon, so I'll avoid the "he or she chose

the life of a superstar athlete, so he or she chose to have their lives examined" routine. If these athletes left their teams for reasons too personal to disclose, that's fine. Tell us that. Or let the athlete tell us that.

But sometimes, I get the eerie sensation that the athletic department isn't covering up for the athletes' sake, it's covering up for itself. The department guards its reputation like a momma bear protects its cubs.

As a student or supporter of the program, this should outrage you. It outrages me. These aren't pro teams. They're your teams. For once in your life, you will be directly connected to the athletes you support. You sit next to the athletes in class.

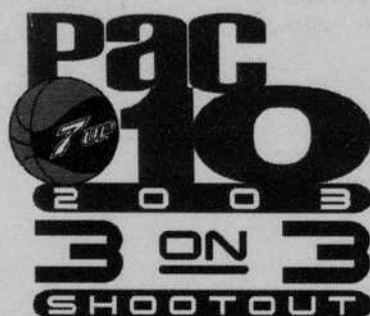
Don't you have a right to know what's going on with a team that, in a sense, you own?

I think you do.

And I think this comes back to the issue at hand, the volleyball team and Carl Ferreira. It's time for the students to care, to be loud like only the Pit Crew can.

Fire Ferreira.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.



Let 7 UP Be Your Ticket To The Pac 10 Championship, Where You Can Be Crowned The Conference Champ! Enter, Play And Have A Chance To Win A Trip To The Men's Or Women's Pac 10 Basketball Tournaments.

Enter the 2nd Annual Pac 10 3 on 3 Shootout, presented by 7 UP and the Pac 10 Conference, for your opportunity to win the battle for campus hardwood supremacy! Once you've earned campus bragging rights, the ultimate prize awaits: a trip to the Men's Championship in Los Angeles, CA or to the Women's Championship in San Jose, CA to vie for conference superiority! The competition will be intense at each level of the event as the Washington State Men and Stanford Women look to defend their titles. To be recognized as the best in the Pac 10, dust the cobwebs off the sneakers, start pulling together your four person squad, and enter this **SINGLE ELIMINATION** tournament coming to your school. You can enter your team in one of the three categories: Women's Open, Men's Open or Men's 6 Ft. & Under (The Men's Open Champ will play the Men's 6 Ft. & Under Champ to determine the Overall Men's Champion and winner of the trip to the conference championship). Every participant will receive a free t-shirt, while also having the ability to win great prizes from **7 UP, Nautica, ampm** and the Pac 10 Conference. The shots you've made and the games you've played have prepared you for this moment! So get your crew together, sign up and enjoy the fun - and the chance to be the Pac 10 Conference 3 on 3 Champion! And remember, **IT'S FREE TO ENTER AND FREE FOR ALL SPECTATORS!** Bring your student ID as your eligibility is contingent upon you being a currently enrolled, full time student.

Visit www.pac-10.org and click on the Pac 10 2003 3 on 3 Shootout logo! This will allow you to find some fun, additional ways to earn a trip to the Pac 10 Conference Championship while waiting for your first/next game or while watching your buddies, as well as information about a hot new product from **7 UP, dnL!**

Pac 10 2003 3 on 3 Shootout Official Entry Form

University of Oregon
Student Recreation Center - 3 Court Gym
February 1, 2003

Division: Men's Open Men's 6' & Under Women's Open

(Note: The Men's Open Champ will play the Men's 6 Ft. & Under Champ to determine the Overall Men's Champion and winner of the trip to the conference championship)

Team Name: _____

Captain's Name: _____ Player 2's Name: _____

Captain's Email: _____ Player 3's Name: _____

Captain's Phone: _____ Player 4's Name: _____

Fill this out completely and return to 102 Esslinger, or email your team information to Joe Gordon at gordogato2@aol.com. If you enter via email, please remember to indicate the tournament location you are participating.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 30, 2003

Waiver, Trademark and Management: Every player must read this Waiver Form. Placement of your name on the registration form signifies that each person has read, understands and abides by this information. There are risks connected with my participation in this tournament and its related activities. I release and discharge Fast Action Sports, Pac 10 Properties and all affiliated entities and individuals, event sponsors, event charities (collectively known as 'event organizers') and the workers, employees, agents, representatives, and directors from all claims, actions, suits and demands whatsoever in law or in equity, including, but not limited to, the risk of injury from playing in the tournament and the risk of loss of personal property by theft or otherwise. Player eligibility for NCAA and collegiate sports vary. The event organizers are not responsible for determining each player's eligibility. Before registering, contact your coach or athletic director and ask how your eligibility would be affected, if at all, by registering for this tournament. Further, I hereby grant full permission for event organizers to record any or all of my participation in this event for photos, motion pictures, TV, radio, Internet, recordings, videotapes, and other media known or unknown, and to use them, no matter by who taken, in any manner for publicity, promotions, advertising, trade or commercial purposes, without any reimbursement of any kind due to me, or the need to pay me any fee. "Pac 10 2003 3 on 3 Shootout" is a registered trademark of Pac 10 Properties. The Pac 10 2003 3 on 3 Shootout is produced and managed by Fast Action Sports, on behalf of Pac 10 Properties.

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All participants will win a prize!