

Stanford football fires head coach Buddy Teevens

After third-straight losing season, athletic director Ted Leland releases coach from Cardinal staff

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STANFORD, Calif. — Three years ago, Ted Leland thought he'd found the right offensive football mind for Stanford in coach Buddy Teevens.

The results eventually told the athletic director otherwise, and Teevens was fired over the weekend after leading the Cardinal to three straight losing seasons.

"It was an extremely difficult decision, but I simply felt that the program was in need of new direction and leadership," Leland said Monday. "It's a tough day that we find ourselves in, a tough place, I guess."

Leland, a close friend of Teevens, met with the coach last week after the Cardinal finished 4-7 for the second consecutive year. Stanford lost 41-6 to arch rival California in the Big Game on Nov. 20 for its fifth-straight defeat.

Teevens learned of his fate Sunday morning, then met with his players Monday afternoon.

Respected for his class and loyalty,

Teevens showed up for the official announcement of his firing.

"Unfortunately, it's a win-loss business, and I didn't win enough ballgames," Teevens said. "The attitude I have is I do believe I improved the quality of the program. I appreciate the opportunity. When you look back, there are a lot of things that are could have, should have."

Leland said the search for a successor would begin immediately.

"The things that he's built here, they're going to stay," linebacker Jon Alston said. "He started the boat rolling. Unfortunately, with the nature of this business, 10 wins in three years at Stanford is just something that people don't tend to accept."

Teevens finished with a 10-23 record in three seasons after taking over the program when Tyrone Willingham bolted for Notre Dame following the 2001 season.

The Cardinal went 0-13 down the stretch during Teevens' three seasons.

IN BRIEF

Club hockey and cross country finish seasons

As classes wind down at the end of the fall term, so do seasons for several of Oregon's Club sport teams.

The ninth-ranked club hockey team ends 2004 with a two-game series against Washington State at the Lane County Ice Center Friday and Saturday. The Ducks are sitting in third place in the Pacific-8 behind Cal and UCLA. The Cougars, last in the

Pac-8, are coming off a split with rival Washington in their last series.

Also in competition this weekend, Oregon's running club team will travel to Portland Sunday to compete in the USATF National Club Cross Country Championships at Portland Meadows race track. Oregon will send 17 athletes to the meet that should get around 40 clubs and 700 runners from all over the nation. The meet will be one of the most fan-friendly cross country races in the nation.

— Beau Eastes

Miller: Oregon basketball stars score at Pit and in pros

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those Seattle boys.

It should also be noted that neither of Oregon's basketball teams have found bumps in the road. The men are 3-0 after a big win over Marshall. The newcomers have made a noticeable impact on the fluidity and expressiveness of the Ducks' game.

The women stand proud at 4-0. They claimed the Long Island Invitational Tournament last weekend, and Cathrine Kraayeveld was recognized as the tournament MVP.

Here's something else to make you smile: The Oregon volleyball team earned a win the hard way against Portland State in its last match of the season on Saturday. A year ago, the Ducks finished 3-24 overall. This season, they settled

with a respectable 10-19 record. Senior libero Katie O'Neil broke the 1,000 career digs mark during the final match and, believe it or not, I witnessed that accomplishment in person. Sophomore attacker Sarah Mason was announced as an honorable mention for the 2004 All-Pac-10 Conference team this week.

Last, but not least, it should be mentioned that Ron Artest isn't really a rapper, but instead a serious executive in the music industry with his own label: Truwarrior Records. I'm sure I would feel ashamed eating the leftovers my mom sent home with me while his lyrics played over my speakers. Fred has your back though, Ron. Best of luck to you.

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Soccer: Fall season ends with 3 wins

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in shots (17).

For her career, French finished with 82 shots, 38 shots on goal, eight goals, three assists, 19 points and two game-winning goals. Her eight goals leave her tied for seventh all-time with teammate Valadez.

Tough schedule hinders Oregon's record

Another roadblock that led to the Ducks' 3-13-3 record was the fact that they played one of the toughest schedules in the country.

The Ducks played against 10 NCAA Tournament invitees and held an exhibition match against an 11th tournament team in Ohio State.

Oregon posted a record of 1-8-1 against these teams, which included Arizona, UCLA, Washington, Stanford, California, Portland, Central Connecticut State, Connecticut, Utah, and Weber State.

Oregon sends off two top senior performers

The Ducks also said goodbye to two of their most consistent performers in seniors Christine Mintz and Baird.

Mintz ended her career with 56 starts to rank eighth all-time for the Ducks. Last season, she was one of only five Pac-10 players to play every minute (1,394) of the season.

In an awards banquet a couple of weeks ago, Mintz earned the team's Defensive MVP honor.

Baird returned from a serious spring ankle injury to play the last 15 games of 2004, including 11 in a row as a starter. She ended her career with 67 appearances — ninth all-time for Oregon.

Baird made a successful switch from the forward position she held her first two years to a defender slot her junior and senior years.

Oregon will return 22 players next season, including six of its eight top goal scorers.

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