

"He's one of the best power forwards of all time. I take my hands off to him."

Retired NBA player Scottie Pippen about Tim Duncan on ESPN



CATIE McCURDY | OREGON MEDIA SERVICES

Head coach Bev Smith announced Wednesday that Phil Brown, left, and Selena Ho will fill two assistant coaching positions for the Oregon women's basketball team. They will fill the positions left after the resignation of Mike and Allison McNeill at the end of the 2004-05 season.

Women's basketball

Duck basketball instates two new assistant coaches

Phil Brown from Australia and Selena Ho from UC Irvine replace Mike and Allison McNeill

BY STEPHEN MILLER
SPORTS REPORTER

Oregon women's basketball head coach Bev Smith announced the hiring of assistant coaches Phil Brown and Selena Ho on Wednesday.

The two additions fill holes left by former assistant coaches Mike and Allison McNeill, who resigned at the end of the 2004-05 season after the Ducks were knocked out in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

"Certainly we had two great coaches in Mike and Allison," Smith said, "but I feel these two really bring a lot of the same qualities and perhaps have their own unique additions to where they're coming from. What I was looking for I found in these two, and I couldn't be happier with my choice. Not only are they great people, but they're also great coaches."

Brown leaves a 20-year tenure with the Australian Institute of Sport, where he has been the head coach since 1991. Brown coached 11 of the 12 members of the 2004 silver medalist Australian Olympic team and currently coaches the Australian junior national team.

"We're so excited to have someone with his teaching ability and his expertise in technical, tactical and strategical sides of the basketball game," Smith said.

At AIS, Brown also coached two players on Oregon's current roster — junior Eleanor Haring and

sophomore Gabrielle Richards.

"There's been a number of Australian players that have gone on to have successful careers here at Oregon," Brown said. "Now we've got a coach out here. I think it reflects how international the game of basketball is and how the sport brings people together."

Brown will also add another element to the recruiting side of Oregon's game.

"Not that we're going to be going out and recruiting a team of foreigners, but I think there's going to be some opportunities," Brown said. "We'll certainly be using my contacts to explore Asia, Australia and even Europe."

Ho exchanged her three years as an assistant coach at UC Irvine to come to Eugene. The two-time first-team All-Big West Conference selection played as a point guard for Pacific from 1998-2002. She finished her collegiate career as the Big West's all-time leader in three-pointers made (271).

"Selena was a top-notch point guard, and she brings that same kind of aggressiveness and dynamic personality to the coaching ranks," Smith said.

Ho said she believes her background as a recent Division I basketball player will help her relate to the members of her new team.

"Obviously, I'm pretty close to their age," Ho said. "The biggest

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Men's track and field

Three more Ducks qualify for NCAAs

Ducks now send 15 to Sacramento as Kyle Alcorn, Eric Logsdon and Galen Rupp earned bids Tuesday

BY BRIAN SMITH
SPORTS REPORTER

The list of Oregon invitees to next week's NCAA Championships in Sacramento, Calif., was finalized as three more Ducks received bids Tuesday.

Oregon steeplechase runner Kyle Alcorn will make his NCAA debut after finishing eighth at the West Regional Championships with a time of 8:45.62. The sophomore and distance runner Eric Logsdon are the two at-large bid winners for the Ducks.

Freshman Galen Rupp also earned a bid to compete in the 10,000-meters due to his record victory at the Oregon Twilight in early May, as the 10,000 was not contested last week.

The three bids brought Oregon's total number of participants in next week's NCAA championships to 15. They will be competing in 12 different events.

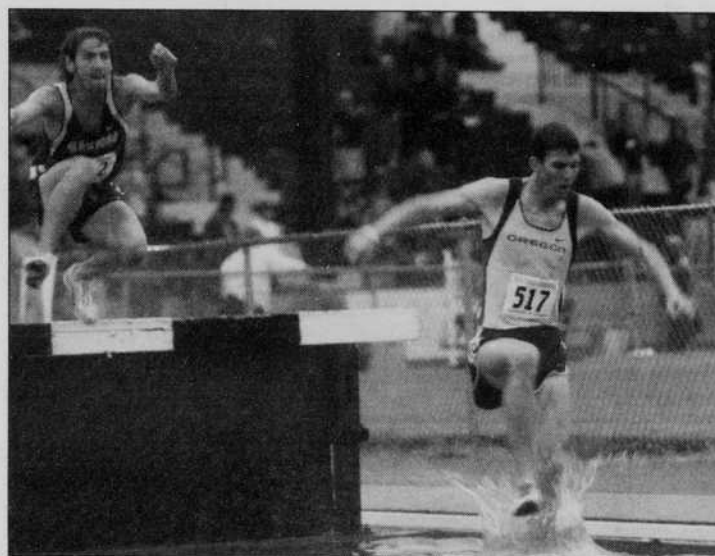
Distance runners make up

nearly a third of the Duck contingent headed to Sacramento. Oregon is also sending two sprinters, two hurdlers, two relay squads, a pole vaulter, a long jumper, a hammer thrower and a decathlete.

Among the group, seven Ducks have totaled 12 All-American outdoor and indoor honors, and four of them have competed in previous NCAAs.

The Ducks also have two Pacific-10 Conference winners representing the team: Two-time defending conference champion 110-meter hurdler Eric Mitchum and 400-meter champion Kedar Inico. In addition, one individual and two teams hold school records for their respective events — Mitchum in the 110, and the 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams.

The 15 Duck competitors eclipse the size of last year's NCAA-bound squad. Oregon sent 13 to Austin, Texas, and came



ZANE RITT | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon steeplechase runner Kyle Alcorn earned his first NCAA Championship berth after finishing eighth in the steeplechase at last week's West Regional Championships.

home with five All-American honors and a ninth-place finish.

End-of-year honors presented to Ducks

Several Oregon athletes were honored at the annual year-end

banquet, held in the Pittman Room at the Casanova Center on Sunday.

Oregon senior Leonidas Watson earned the Dow Wilson (Most Inspirational Athlete) Award after taking ownership of the school's

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IN BRIEF

LaVoie looks to improve play in second round of NCAAs

Senior Gregg LaVoie of the Oregon men's golf team finished 2-over par Wednesday in the first round of the 108th annual NCAA Championships in Owings Mills, Md. LaVoie is currently tied for 49th place in the field of 150 individual competitors at the par-70, 7,131-yard Caves Valley Golf Course.

LaVoie had a rough start in the round, recording three bogeys in the first five holes. He finished the front nine at 3-over and in desperate need of improvement. He caught fire on the 10th hole, carding back-to-back birdies going into hole 12, where his progress was slowed by another bogey. LaVoie ended the round shooting par on the final holes, including a balancing birdie and bogey on the 14th and 16th holes, respectively. He finished 1-under par on the back nine with a total score of 72.

Georgia's Kevin Kisner and Augusta State's Major Manning sit atop the field going into today's second round. Both players shot 5-under and hold a one-stroke lead over Aron Price of Georgia Southern. Kisner's Bulldogs hold a commanding lead in the hunt for the team title. They are five strokes ahead of Tennessee (279) with a team score of 274.

LaVoie tees off today in the second round with East Tennessee State's Rhys Davies and Eastern Michigan University's Korey Mahoney at 8:48 a.m. EST.

— Scott J. Adams