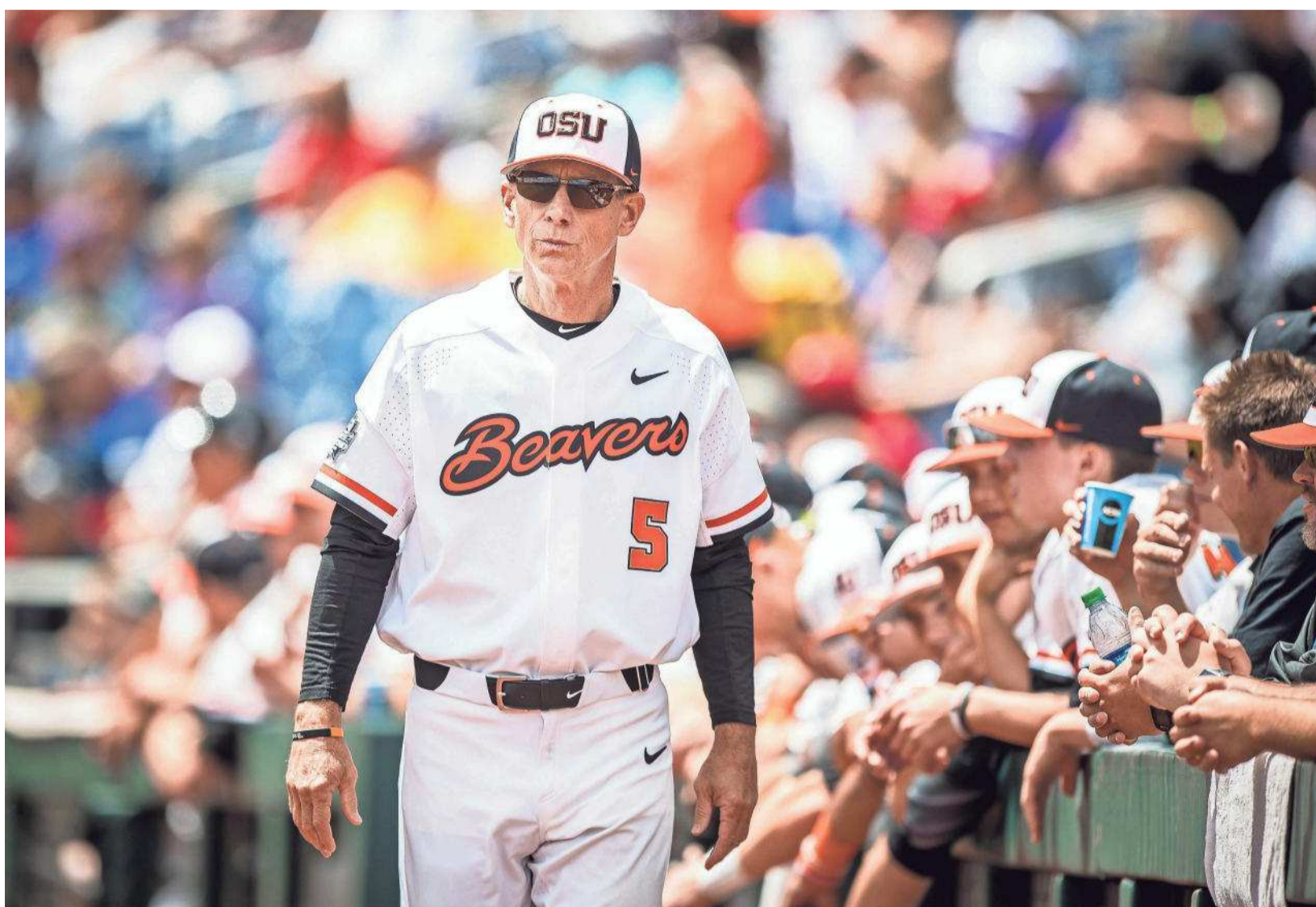


# Sports

## 'It's been awesome'



OSU coach Pat Casey has announced plans to retire. KARL MAASDAM

### Pat Casey retiring after successful run as OSU baseball coach

**Gary Horowitz**  
Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

CORVALLIS — Oregon State baseball coach Pat Casey is going out on top.

Casey, who led the Beavers to a third national championship in June, announced his retirement Sept. 6.

"It's just been an unbelievable honor for me. It's been awesome," an emotional Casey said of his 24 seasons at OSU.

OSU athletic director Scott Barnes said Pat Bailey, who served as an assistant coach and associate head coach under Casey for 11 years, will be interim coach. A national search will begin after the 2019 season.

Casey, 59, had a career record of 900-458-6 at OSU, with national

championships in 2006, 2007 and 2018, and six appearances in the College World Series in Omaha.

Casey did not rule out coaching again, but said he didn't have the passion necessary to continue at OSU.

"My problem is what I expect out of my players on the field, I expect out of myself," Casey said. "Right now I'm not positive that I can give that same effort that I expect of them."

"I'm not sure I can't, but I will never put the uniform on unless I do it with that same passion as I expect of them."

He will remain at OSU as a senior associate athletics director/special assistant to Barnes. Casey's current contract pays him \$5.5 million from 2016 through 2022.

#### A perennial power

Casey turned the Beavers into a perennial national power with a nucleus of players from the Northwest.

Under Casey, OSU reached the CWS in 2005 for the first time since 1952. He led the Beavers to the school's first national title in 2006, and a repeat championship the following year.

Casey was named National Coach of the Year by at least one organization in five different seasons, including 2018.

Barnes said right deck at Goss Stadium will be named Casey Corner.

"He's had a Hall of Fame career for sure," Barnes said. "We talk about a legacy, certainly three national championships in a place where a lot of folks, (in) the North-

west, didn't think maybe that could happen."

#### Final season memorable

Casey's final team was among his best.

The 2018 Beavers culminated a 55-12-1 season by winning the College World Series, the final game a 5-0 win June 28 behind a sterling performance by freshman pitcher Kevin Abel.

It also didn't come to that. The Beavers were one out away from being eliminated by Arkansas in Game 2 of the CWS, but rallied for a 5-3 win.

The team featured three first-round selections in the 2018 Major League Baseball Draft — second baseman Nick Madrigal, outfielder

**See CASEY, Page 2B**

## The sublime season in Oregon's outdoors is now



**Fishing**  
Henry Miller  
Guest columnist

The sound of several hundred vehicle exhausts was music to my ears.

The mass migration on Monday consisted mostly of RVs and pickup trucks packed with camping gear, many sporting campers and/or towing boats.

All of them lumbering west on Highway 22 from the campground at Detroit Lake State Park and from Mongold boat ramp just west of the park as well as the marinas in the town of Detroit and points east.

For most of the sunburned, bleary-eyed, bone-weary holiday-makers, Labor Day marked the end of the summer recreation season.

For my formerly employed self as well as my current incarnation as a retiree, the shoulder season between the summer-ending three-day-weekend scum and the first really nasty winter weather is a sublime time in the outdoors.

Campgrounds are virtually empty, often even on weekends, and chilly nights keep gnawing insects somewhat at bay.

While fish remain abundant and are fattening up as waters cool (eventually, oh please!)

#### BONUS!

For those wanting to extend the magic, it's just been confirmed by Desert Springs Trout Farm near Summer Lake



There's a long line of assorted vehicles waiting to turn west onto Highway 22 at Detroit Lake State Park at the end of the three-day Labor Day weekend.

PHOTOS BY HENRY MILLER/SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN JOURNAL

that the scheduled delivery of 15,000-plus rainbow trout, barring unforeseen problems, will be dropped into Detroit Lake before Sept. 8.

It's the last trout plant on the schedule for Detroit in 2018, although hold-overs will be available there all winter long.

The mop-up stocking schedules for the rest of the year at other water bodies around the state are online at <https://myodfw.com/fishing/species/trout/>

stocking-schedule.

The downside to early fall outdoor adventures is that until there is measurable rain, rivers and streams are at end-of-summer lows, and are reservoirs on the east side of the Cascade Range that are operated for agricultural irrigation.

A separate potential buzz-kill on the converse side of the precipitation situation is that weather tends to be somewhat, shall we say, "changeable" during the shoulder season.

As my brother-in-law, Bob, and I discovered during two post-Labor Day weeklong camping trips to the east side that we did a couple of years apart.

During the first, we were in T-shirts and hiking pants during the day, and awoke to a quarter-inch of snow on the picnic table, a half-frozen water jug and a couple of damp towels hung up to dry that were as fluffy, soft and absorbent as plywood.

That was at Three Creeks Lake west of Sisters.

Another time we were blown out in a massive sleet storm at Wallowa Lake in the northeast corner of the state.

The only guy who looked more sodden and bedraggled was a guy who has been lead-footing it through the frozen rain on a motorcycle for two hours heading west out of Idaho.

The most memorable washout, though, was a trip to the southern Oregon coast, where I awoke in a torrential downpour at Humbug Mountain State Park and peered out of the tent flap to see the campfire wood floating by on a newly created lake.

Ah, good times.

In other fall highlights:

**Item 1:** The Willamette Valley Mushroom Society, Salem's own group of wild-fungus aficionados, cranks up for the season with the first meeting at 7 p.m. on Oct. 1 at Woodland Chapel, 582 High St.

The topic is "The Basics of Mushroom ID" by longtime member Dale

**See OUTDOORS, Page 2B**