

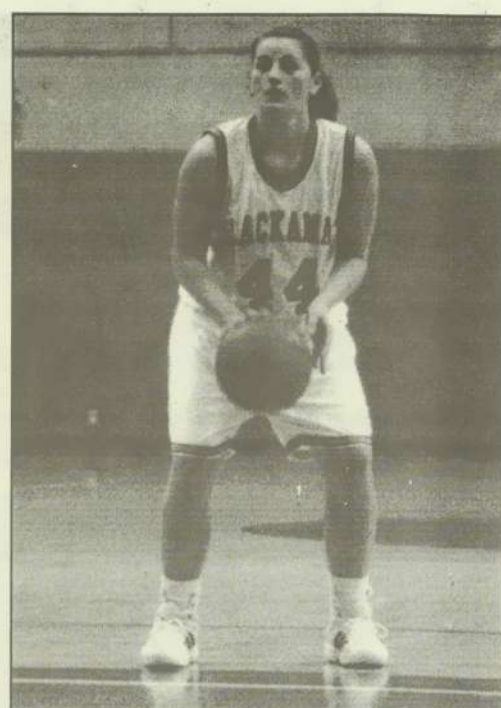
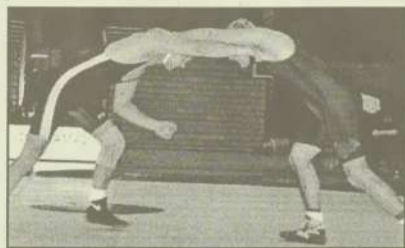


**Basketball:**

**The Cougars host Mt. Hood tonight!! Women play at 6 p.m., men at 8 p.m. Top-ranked Lane visits Clackamas this Saturday night!! Women play at 6 p.m., men at 8 p.m.**

**Wrestling:**

**Clackamas hosts a triangular meet this Saturday in Randall Gymnasium. First match starts at noon! Support Cougar Wrestling!!**



**Khosravi: Erickson best situation with loss of Riley**

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ter teams in the AFC after a few seasons under Holmgren's Control. This was an A+ hiring.

**Oregon State**

Former Seahawks coach Dennis Erickson was hired on Tuesday as the Beavers' new head coach. He has said his goal is to make the program a winner again after OSU's infamous losing streak of 28 seasons.

"We want to win football games. We want to get to bowl games. We want to win the Pac-10. Let's don't settle with little things," said Erickson.

This was the best possible hiring OSU could have made.

Erickson led University of Miami to 2 national titles when he coached there [one in 1989 and one in 1991]. He has compiled a record of 113-40-1 [113 wins, 40 losses, 1 tie] on the college level, including 63-9 at Miami, were he won 87.5% of his games. His Record at the other colleges [Washington State, Wyoming, and Idaho] was 50-31-1, with a winning percentage of 60.9%.

Although he only compiled a 31-33 record at the NFL level in Seattle, his Talent as a college coach is without question. He has been a winner at every college he has coached. He seems to be the type of coach who is better suited for the college level.

Erickson himself seems to enjoy the college level more.

When Erickson entered the conference room through a giant inflatable Beavers helmet to the sound of a nine-piece band, the crowd began to chant the Beavers fight song.

"I knew I missed something about college football, and that's it right there," said Erickson.

He has always been more comfortable at the college level, and it's obvious he is more comfortable at OSU than he has in Seattle.

Erickson has always been a winner in college coaching, and there's no reason he can't help make OSU a winner as well.

**San Diego Chargers**

This is a very puzzling hiring to me. Mike Riley appeared to have Oregon State headed in the right direction [he lead them to there best record since 1971 [5-6] this past year] after only two years on the job at Oregon State, though I'm not sure he's ready for the NFL.

There is some merit to this hiring, don't get me wrong, Riley is a good coach. However, I do feel that this hiring was based more on politics than it was on just merit. Chargers General Manger Bobby Beathard admits he wanted to hire someone he was familiar with to coach the Chargers. Riley has coached some of Beathard's kids in the past, and has been very close friends with him for a number of years.

Riley is a good coach, and it seems he is the type of coach that could be successful in the NFL.

"This is my man. I think he is a good coach, very creative," said New York Jets' Wide Receiver KeyShawn Johnson. "He helped me become the No. 1 pick (in the NFL draft). He recognizes talent, I do know that."

**Thorburn: Outside pressure caused dismissal of Lambo-ball**

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a Super Bowl.

Holmgren, as a general manager, combined with the deep pockets of Allen makes the formula that brings in marquee quarterbacks—the Randall Cunninghams, the Kordell Stewarts, and the Steve Youngs.

It could work, but unless something is changed to fill a quarterback position that has been a swinging door since the Jim Zorn era, the Hawks will be shut down in the first round year after year.

What's the solution? Mike Holmgren has the respect of every Seahawk on the roster. It is enticing for free-agents to stay. What about the quarterback? The two best possible scenarios are either simply trading up for a draft pick to grab an Akili Smith or a Donovan McNabb or to go after Brad Johnson of the Minnesota Vikings.

All season long, Johnson has been secured by the Vikings' front office. Holmgren must simply make an offer the Vikings can't refuse. Next to the Vikings, no other team has a receiving corps like the Seahawks. They simply have the worst group of quarterbacks.

Holmgren + top quarterback = Super Bowl, baby.

With Erickson having recently accepted the head coaching position at Oregon State University, his credibility as a coach will be put to the test almost immediately.

**Washington Huskies**

It's blatantly obvious what transpired in the process of the firing of Jim Lambright.

I have never heard of a worse scenario where an athletic director lets outside money and booster pressure determine the "direction of the football program."

Jim Lambright was a coach who endured the hardest times Washington football has faced because of 1992 NCAA sanctions. Still, he managed not one losing season—making three bowl appearances and winning a share of the Pac-10 title

in 1993.

No matter the "University" demanded a "new direction," as Athletic Director Barbara Hedges stated. After all, this was Washington football. The Huskies, not the Cougars. God, not the Cougars. Lambright out, Neuheisel in.

In four years as a head coach at the University of Colorado, Rick Neuheisel compiled a 33-14 record—never beating Kansas State, Nebraska or even Missouri. Neuheisel's been to three bowl games all against Pac-10 teams. Two of those games were against Oregon. Neuheisel's Buffaloes won both matchups.

Looking at the numbers, Neuheisel brings nothing more to the Washington Huskies than Lambright already gave the school. It's the intangibles that made the difference.

Lambright was always seen as old school, brash and even a little cold towards the public. Neuheisel is young and blond. He likes to smile and he'll shake your hand.

The players are already excited for the 1999 season.

Neuheisel has made one change since arriving in Seattle.

He reinstated the gold helmets that adorned Huskies during the Don James era which saw a 1991 National Championship. The alone boosted player morale.

Another key element Neuheisel brings is recruiting.

Kennedy High School's Paul Arnold, in Seattle, is one the most sought-after recruits in the nation. He has taken visits to Notre Dame, Michigan, Colorado, UCLA and USC. Most feel Arnold's addition to the Huskies' lineup will restore a needed running attack and have the Dawg Bowl rocking. I feel he'll choose the purple and gold on signing day, February 18.

It's interesting.

National championships. Bowl games. Boosters.

Coaching doesn't seem to be what it used to be.

**The Box: It's a money problem**

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The rival Saints, along with Blue Mountain Community College and Treasure Valley Community College, were four schools, including Clackamas, that competed in NWAACC football from Oregon.

Today, one team in both Washington and Oregon remains.

Walla Walla Community College, a pioneer in Northwest community college football, competes with schools from Idaho.

Whatever happened to the sentiment that sports promote good self-esteem, discipline in life and a high success rate in both the job community community as well as in graduation?

Oh yeah, the economics didn't allow it.

Oh yeah, there wasn't enough money for football players. That's right.

Granted, football by far is the most expensive sport. With its 60-man roster and insurance coverage, the price is high.

Now, anyone who knows me, knows that I am a huge supporter of women's sports.

I wonder though, would a sport that fielded 60-plus female athletes be canceled because of something like money?

Would parents allow it?

More importantly, would state officials allow it?

It's simple to say, "Well, with football, the balance between men's and women's sports would be offset."

It's simple to say, "Football is just a sport about boys beating up boys."

It's simple to say, "The sport costs too much money and taxpayers don't want to pay for it."

This isn't an effort to reinstate the sport of football at Clackamas or at any other community college.

I wonder, though, how long would it take a bunch of government officials to support the idea of 60 college female athletes?

You figure it out.



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