



DUCKS' JOHN TOPAR

Photo by Jerry Benterou

Swimmers taking on N.M. in 5-team meet at Utah

Oregon's young swimming team is developing fast. Further evidence should come when the Ducks take on powerful New Mexico and three other schools in a Championship meet at Utah which starts Thursday night.

Don Van Rossen's squad lost 66-47 to fifth-ranked Stanford and belted the University of Alaska 97-15 in the first two meets of the season at Leighton Pool.

The Cardinals weren't ready for two Oregon school records and Duck stars John Topar and Tony Ciochetti.

Stanford trailed twice, once after Topar's 1:55.91 in the 200-yard butterfly and again when Rich

By PAUL BUKER
Of the Emerald

Basford and Jon Ramey went two-three in the 200-yard backstroke. Ciochetti set a school record in the 200-yard individual medley.

It was the Cardinal superstars—Olympic gold medalist John Hencken and Brian Job—who provided the difference when they swept the breaststroke.

It may be that Van Rossen's team is 20 points away from being national calibre.

"Our guys were really ready for Stanford. They worked hard for it," he said Tuesday before a practice at Leighton Pool.

But Oregon will be hurt at Salt Lake City by the loss of distance man Steve Williams, out with a lung infection.

And New Mexico figures to own the freestyle

events because of Rick Klatt—who has churned a 47.27 in the 100-yard freestyle and has an excellent 1:43.7 clocking over 200 yards.

"They're really fast in those freestyle events," admitted Van Rossen. "We don't have anything like Klatt's 47.2."

Nationally, Oregon is doing well. The latest Swimming World time listings have Topar third in the U.S. for that fast 200-fly against Stanford.

Ciochetti, club record-holder in the 200 freestyle, swam a fast 1:59.68 individual medley against the Cardinals and right now that's the second-best time in the country.

In the 400-yard medley relay Oregon ranks sixth and Roy Clark—the man who had to face Hencken and Job last weekend—is sixth in the breaststroke with a best of 2:14.4.

Brigham, Oregon State, and Utah are the other schools who will swim three days in the plush Ute natatorium.

The first final comes Thursday night in the 200 individual medley—where Basford, Gary Hidle, Matt McCudden, and Ramey will swim for the Ducks.

Van Rossen has placed Ciochetti in the 50-yard freestyle, where his best is 22.32, the 400-yard individual medley, and in the 100-yard freestyle—where he'll more than likely meet Klatt in the Saturday night final.

Topar is swimming the 100-yard fly, his best over that distance is 54.4, and should be favored in the 200-yard fly final Friday.

Gary Devereux, who bested Stanford's Hencken in a spirited 200-yard freestyle duel last week, will swim the 400-yard individual medley, the 500-yard freestyle, and join Hidle and Topar in the 200 fly.

The Ducks leave for Salt Lake Thursday morning and will return late Saturday night.

Finley's got still another shot at OSU

By MERLIN MANN
Of the Emerald

When Ron Finley was a collegian at Oregon State back in the early sixties he was helping extend the OSU dominance in wrestling over Oregon. Then after he graduated in 1964 he continued to help clobber Oregon as assistant coach at Oregon State.

Over the years, Oregon State's dominance has stretched to 28 straight dual match victories over the Ducks. The Ducks in the 19-year rivalry with the Beavers have won three matches out of 36. That last victory was 14-13 in 1957.

Now, Ron Finley, who is expected to be named coach of the United States's Greco-Roman team today, tries it again with his Ducks. Oregon, 4-2, gets a chance to upset Oregon State this Thursday night at Mac Court.

Chances of an upset seem as slight as ever, because OSU Coach Dale Thomas has come up with one of the strongest wrestling teams in the nation.

Undefeated this year, Oregon State has shackled 13 opponents this year. Even third-ranked Oklahoma, perennial wrestling power, couldn't handle the Beavers. The Oklahomans fell 30-11 to the Beavers, ranked second.

"I definitely feel they will have a good chance of winning the NCAA title this year in Seattle," Finley said. "They have five tremendous wrestlers, all NCAA place winners."

The five have combined individual dual meet records of 59 wins, one loss, and one tie.

Oregon's upset hopes obviously rest on its strengths vs. OSU's weaknesses. Dave Luke and Mike Oilar, Oregon's winningest grapplers will not have to face favored opponents.

Luke, Oregon's career record holder with 23 pins, will have his hands full with Beaver Joe Bold at 134 pounds. Bold has compiled an 8-2 record. Luke, while unbeaten in dual matches and coming off currently on a pinning streak of four, is coming off a bout with the flu. Luke sat out of action last weekend.

Oilar, at 126 pounds, hasn't been beaten this season although Washington wrestler Brad Jaquet managed a 10-10 tie last Saturday. Oilar was whistled for stalling at the final buzzer in Seattle to give Jaquet the tie. Other than the tie, Oilar hasn't been threatened this season. He'll meet either Ron Boucher, 3-2, or Mike A. Jones 3-3-1.

Wes Hines, Oregon's sophomore 190-pounder, will square off with OSU's Greg Strobel in the night's feature bout. Hines has been facing some of the top 190-pound wrestlers on the west coast his last few times out.

A possible key weight is the 167 pound bracket where Pac-8 Champion Mark Purkey may return to action. Sidelined by a knee injury that required surgery last spring, Purkey was wrestling full blast this week in practice.

"We put him through a hard practice Monday," Finley said, "the hardest he's had all year, but we don't want to put him out before he's ready. His future is more important than a dual match victory for the team."

With or without Purkey, Oregon will be hard pressed to mount a strong upset bid against the powerful Beavers, but then Oregon-Oregon State competition rarely goes entirely as expected. Finley likes to point to Oregon's first match with the Beavers last year when the Ducks led through most of the match until OSU wrapped up the victory in the final weight.

JVs try to snap 3-game loss skid

The Oregon JV basketball club will attempt to break a three game losing skein tonight when they travel to Vancouver, Washington to take on Clark College. The encounter with the small college varsity will tip-off at 8 p.m.

The game with Clark College is a throwback to the days when the freshmen basketball teams of yesteryear would regularly play small college squads. With the advent of freshmen graduating to varsity rosters and sophomores conversely being allowed to play on the JV teams, Coach Jim Haney of Oregon has scheduled tougher opponents for his JV forces. Two of Oregon's losses have come from the shooting hands of Claudia's AAU team, a band of former college players with a myriad of experience. "It certainly is rougher playing these teams," said Haney, "But the competition is better for us."

During the weekend the JV's dropped a pair of decisions, one to the Washington JV's and Claudia's. "We didn't play particularly well over the weekend. We didn't have patience or poise, and we started to rush some of our shots when we got behind," said Haney.

Despite the losses, several players had outstanding games. Bob Catchings tallied 30 points in a loss Saturday night. Two other players, Mike Adams and Mark Carver, turned in strong games in substitute roles. "Mark played good defense, and bounced back well Saturday night. Mike played some excellent defense, and he is being asked to have poise just as all the other players," said Haney.

After tonight's action with Clark College, the junior Ducks will face three straight weeks of Oregon Beaver, JV style. They host the JV's from Corvallis as a preliminary game to the Oregon-Cal Poly game on Saturday. They play them again on the following Saturday in Corvallis as a prelude before the basketball Civil War on January 27. Then the entourage travels to Memorial Coliseum in Portland on February 2. If that isn't enough, there will be a fourth and final contest on March 10 to end the season. "I like those games with Oregon State," said Haney. "It gives you poise and patience."

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