

Bob Welch

The Pac-8

Welcome to who knows what. . .



If someone had told the average Kamikaze fan after the Washington State loss that the Ducks would beat Oregon State by 15 points the next weekend, he would have said sure. And Mike Drummond is seven-foot-four.

Few expected a win from the sputtering Ducks. Fewer still expected Oregon to be toying with the Beavers at the end of the game in much the same fashion the Beavers toyed with UCLA two weeks earlier.

But welcome to the Pac-8, where nothing is certain, least of all the future. Oregon State, obviously, is not invincible. UCLA has lost a Pac-8 game by 17 points and has won two conference games by a total of three points. Southern Cal, the early favorite to push the Bruins for the title, is 0-4. And Washington is 16-1, the eighth-ranked team in the nation and second in the Pac-8.

Take a deep breath; there's more.

California goes from world-beaters to zero in the blink of an eye. Stanford has lost two of its three Pac-8 games by a total of three points and outrebounded UCLA 54-26 in dropping a 68-67 decision in Los Angeles. Washington State has beaten Oregon, which beat an Oregon State team that beat both UCLA and Washington, by no less than nine points.

And then there's Oregon, which loses to a service all-star team, Virginia Tech and Duquesne; rebounds for a strong showing against UCLA and USC; stinks up the State of Washington and then beats the nation's 11th ranked team by 15 points.

"It was just the totally different attitude we had," said Ronnie Lee, who gave the Beaver defense fits with his uncanny passes and unreal drives. "We were more of a team. We talked more, helped each other out more on defense and penetrated more."

"We came to play," said Greg Graham. "Last weekend against Washington and Washington State it was the other way around. We lost on mental toughness."

The catalyst in changing the team's attitude was Dick Harter's patented formula: good ol', heart-poundin', knee scrapin', blood-drippin' practices.

"We had a super week of practice before Oregon State," said Harter, who even held a tough workout Saturday morning. "We went harder than we've gone all year."

"When you work hard in practice, you develop a good, positive attitude about the game."

"When you work as hard as we did," said Greg Ballard, "you just don't feel like letting up in the game. It's just not worth it."

If any one statistic told the difference between the Ducks' game with Washington State and their win over the Beavers, it was field goal accuracy. Against the Cougars, Oregon hit 39 per cent on 26 of 67. Against Oregon State, the Ducks hit 58 per cent on 30 of 52.

In their phlegmatic effort in Pullman, Oregon scored only 13 points in a nine-minute span in the second half. In their impressive win at Mac Court, Oregon scored eight points in 72 seconds at one point in the first half.

The question now is: can the Ducks develop some consistency; can they win on the road?

In a league like this, with every team capable of beating everyone else, you've got to win on the road. Surprisingly, visiting teams have won 10 out of the Pac-8's 18 games thus far.

But Oregon is 0-2 away from the Pit. And dating back to last year, has lost its last seven games on the road.

"We've gotta get some consistency and win away from home," said Ballard. "You can't be up and down in a league like this."

While next week's Stanford-Cal series is important, the four road games to follow—Cal, Stanford, UCLA and USC—could make or break Oregon's season.

"There's a lot missing when we play away from home," said Ballard. "Mac Court is worth at least ten points."

Said Harter: "I wish we could take all the fans on our road trips."

A Port-A-Pit would be ideal, but the Ducks must learn to win without the local fanatics. In this conference, it's a necessity, not a bonus.



Photo by John Johns

Duck heavyweight Greg Gibson (right) will have his hands full with OSU's Larry Bielenberg.

Showdown: Oregon vs. OSU

By GREG STILES
Of the Emerald

The torrid Oregon-Oregon State wrestling rivalry picks up again tonight when the two Pacific-8 powers square off at 7:30 p.m. in McArthur Court.

Oregon's Steve Hart will clash with Beaver Pat Plourd in the 118-pound match to start off the meet, but both Duck coach Ron Finley and OSU coach Dale Thomas believe the match will come down to the final bout between the defending NCAA heavyweight champion Larry Bielenberg of Oregon State and runner-up Greg Gibson from Oregon.

"That's the big match of the night," said Finley. "What more can you say—those two are the finest heavyweights in the country."

"No matter who wins, the fans are going to see an outstanding match . . . they (Gibson and Bielenberg) are both winners."

In nine previous meetings, Bielenberg has defeated Gibson eight times. But Gibson's one triumph gave him the Pacific-8 title a year ago.

Of the ten bouts on tap, only two have a heavy favorite. Oregon State's Doug Ziebart is expected

to handily defeat Duck Danny Hollembaek at 150 lbs. and Oregon's Bob Bragg is seen as a lopsided favorite in the 190 lb. tussle. Beyond that there are no absolutes.

Matches that will swing the meet in favor of one side or the other include those at the 118, 126, 134, 142 and 167 weight classes.

The individual matches shape-up like this:

118—Pat Plourd (17-5) vs Steve Hart (19-7)—Thomas feels that the Ducks' Hart is "the top 118-pounder in the Pac-8 . . . and is a point or so ahead of Plourd."

126—Bruce Nishikawa (17-3) vs Joe Sade (5-3) or Dawey Travis (6-8)—Finley is hoping that Sade will be able to make his first meet appearance since December. If Sade goes, he's the favorite. If not, it's a toss-up.

134—Joe Kittel (17-3) vs Shuichi Shoji

(16-4-3)—Kittel has improved greatly in the past few meets, but Shoji is rated a slight favorite.

142—Dick Knorr (14-6) vs Randy Robinson (15-8)—Their records are fairly even, but the OSU coach gives Robinson a slight nod.

150—Doug Ziebart (14-4-3) vs Danny Hollembaek (1-4-1)—OSU is hoping for six points from Ziebart. Finley says, "It would be great if he (Hollembaek) could pull an upset."

158—Bob Hess (0-2) vs Kevin Kramer (20-6)—Kramer should win handily if he goes against Hess. Thomas said "There's not much chance for Hess upsetting Kramer." However, there is rumour the injured Mark Evenhouse may be in the line-up for OSU.

167—Dan Zastoupil (14-8) vs Randy Besaw (13-11)—Finley believes that Besaw will chalk up a take-down and keep Zastoupil down on the mat to win.

177—Mark Dillenburg (9-4) vs Tim Strobel (4-1-2)—This is a real toss-up. No one even hinted at the outcome of this bout.

190—Don Haberlach (5-14) vs Bob Bragg (15-2)—This should be all Bragg, and Finley would like to see a superior decision if not a pin.

Heavyweight—Larry Bielenberg (21-1) vs Greg Gibson (13-2-1)—Says Thomas, "I believe it's a toss-up . . . but Bielenberg has to be the favorite there. It's going to be damned interesting."

Lee hits record 41 in 96-65 Duck win

From AP Reports

PORTLAND — Ronnie Lee and the Ducks still haven't cooled off.

Fresh from a stunning 15-point win over 11th-ranked Oregon State Saturday, Oregon blitzed Seattle 96-65 Monday night as Lee set a school scoring record with 41 points.

The old record of 40 points was set by Stan Love against California in 1970.

Lee, who earlier in the day was named the Pacific-8 Player-of-the-Week for his heroics against the Beavers, hit 15 of 23 from the field and 11 of 23 free throws in the lopsided victory.

Greg Ballard and Mark Barwig each added 14 points for the Ducks, whose overall record is now 10-9.

The game was played before about 3,000 fans at Portland's Memorial Coliseum.

Oregon led 39-28 at halftime and broke the game open with a 57-point second half outburst.

Kevin Suther scored 15 points to lead Seattle, now 6-11. Lee's previous high had been 34 points, which he hit in an 84-82 overtime win over Washington in 1974.

OREGON (96) — Ballard 14, Mack 4, Geoff Nelson, Lee 41, Barwig 14, Drummond 4, Graham, Jackson 2, Moreck 2, Gary Nelson, Coldren 2, Hartshorne 9, Small 4.

SEATTLE (65) — Suther 15, Day 6, Low 4, Richardson 11, O'Brien 10, Maltzby 5, Green 5, Joyce 2, Lee 5, Silver, Gribble 2.

Seattle 28 37 — 65
Oregon 39 57 — 96
Fouls — Seattle 20, Oregon 27.
Fouled out — None.
Technical foul: Oregon, Hartshorne.
Att. — 3,000

Gymnasts win big...thanks to fan club

Oregon's third-ranked yet virtually unknown gymnastics team got an unexpected boost from about 20 foot-stomping, pom pom waving fans Monday night and Coach Bill Ballester said the group was instrumental in helping the Flying Ducks to an impressive win over Portland State.

"Normally we would have been flat against a team like PSU," said Ballester, "but those fans got us fired up."

So fired up in fact, that following the 210.45 - 183.15 win, Ballester said "With Bob Rikli healthy we could have beat any team in the Oregon Daily Emerald

country tonight."

Oregon won all six events except for the all-around, where the Vikings' Steve Monroe took honors with a 51.55 score.

Ballester named Scott McEl-downey and Tom Truedson as co-outstanding gymnasts. McEl-downey hit 9.6 in the rings to break his old school record by a tenth and Truedson turned in a fine 9.45 on the pommel horse to place behind teammate Mike Blumenstein.

The meet drew only about 250 people but Ballester wasn't complaining. "That group got things going and everybody joined in,"

he said. "It was great."

FLOOR EXERCISE — 1, Don Lester, UO, 9.35. 2, (tie) Mike Blumenstein, UO, and Steve Monroe, PSU, 9.0.

POMMEL HORSE — 1, Curt Rodgers, UO, 9.50. 2, Tom Truedson, Ore, 9.45. 3, Steve Monroe, PSU, 7.95.

RINGS — 1, Scott McEl-downey, UO, 9.60 (New school record; Old mark 9.5 by McEl-downey set in 1975). 2, Steve Monroe, PSU, 8.75. 3, Steve Roskam, UO, 8.70.

VAULTING — 1, Mike Blumenstein, UO, 9.15. 2, Steve Monroe, PSU, 9.10. 3, Marvin O'Neal, UO, 8.75.

PARALLEL BARS — 1, (tie) Mike Blumenstein, UO, and Bob Rikli, UO, 9.1. 3, Steve Monroe, PSU, 8.75.

HIGH BAR — 1, Mark Stone, UO, 9.45. 2, (tie) Bob Rikli, UO, and Steve Roskam, UO, 9.05.

ALL-AROUND — 1, Steve Monroe, PSU, 51.55. 2, Steve Roskam, UO, 50.50. 3, Scott Phillips, UO, 49.20.

TEAM — Oregon 210.45, Portland State 183.15