

UO needs super effort to defend Pac-8 title

By GREG STILES
Of the Emerald

CORVALLIS—Color Oregon's wrestling team with guarded optimism entering today's first round of the Pacific-8 Championships.

emerald sports

The Ducks won the Pac-8 title last year—the first league championship title in Oregon history—but a repeat performance would be surprising. Oregon State has the inside track while Washington and UCLA could challenge for the title.

"I really don't know if we're quite as strong as we were last year," said coach Ron Finley. "We might be just as strong, but the other teams are stronger than they were last year."

Earlier this week the Ducks received good news when Buck Davis was medically cleared to begin wrestling for the first time since he broke his arm Jan. 10.

Buck surprised everyone but himself by beating Tim Strobel in a challenge match for the 177-lb. berth in the meet.

Winning the team title would definitely aid in recruiting replacements for seniors Joe Sade, Shuichi Shoji and Greg Gibson.

Gibson and Sade will have to rise to the occasion to win Pac-8 titles as they did last year. Gibson faces Oregon State's Larry Bielenberg. Sade, injured for most

of the season, is in a tough weight class—126.

Gibson has beaten Bielenberg, the defending NCAA heavyweight champion, only once the past two years. The Redding, Calif., native came through with one of the biggest upsets in college wrestling a year ago at Gill Coliseum when he defeated Bielenberg, 13-12, in the Pac-8 finals.

Once again, the nation's top two heavy weights should meet in the finals.

Sade appeared only 12 times this season, in the 126-lb. class as he was constantly hampered with a nagging ankle injury. He won seven matches but recorded only one pin.

Finley believes Sade can hold his own in the tournament. "Joe is the type of person who really competes well. If he can just keep his concentration he should come out in a good position."

Shoji reached the quarter-finals of the NCAA meet as a sophomore in the 142-lb. division, but a year ago a rib injury kept him from placing any higher than third in the conference meet at 134.

He's worked at the 134 spot for Oregon most of this season, but Finley feels that Shoji's presence in the 142 slot will be more advantageous during the tourney.

Kevin Dramer, the defending Pac-8 titlist in the 158-lb. category, will be pushed by Washington's Tom Brown and Oregon State's Mark Evanhus. "We expect him to dominate wrestlers on his feet like he has all year," said Finley.

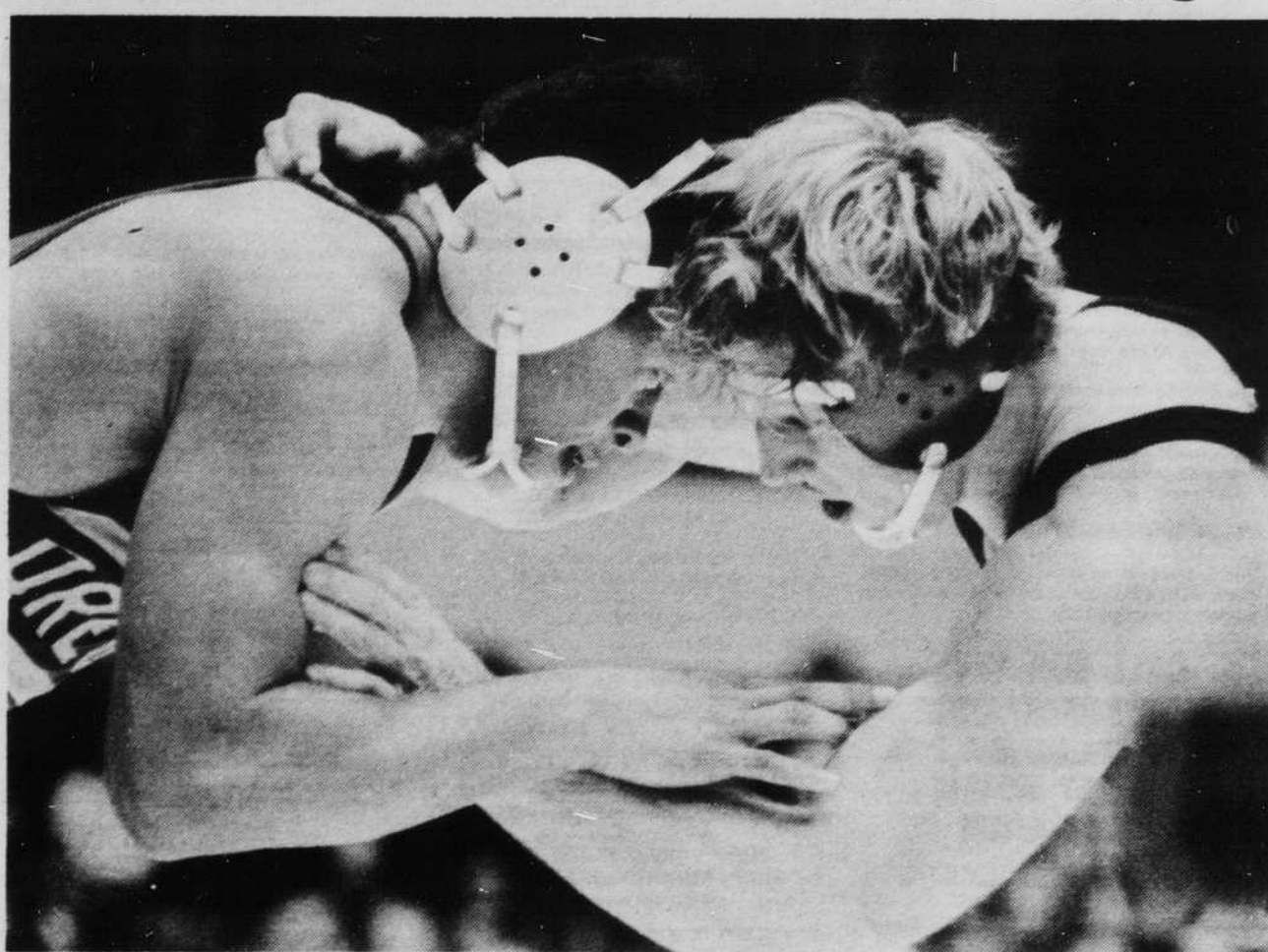


Photo by Mano Scott

Can Gibson pull a repeat performance and upset Oregon State's Bielenberg in the heavyweight match? The Ducks, who need plenty of clutch efforts to win, hope so.

Steve Hart suffered a neck injury this week in practice but still rates among the challengers in the 118 fight. "The biggest thing that Steve has got to do is keep control of himself," said Finley. "He's got to make the other wrestlers wrestle his style."

Randy Robinson is in the midst of one of the most competitive of

all weight divisions in the Pac-8, 134.

UCLA's Frank Gonzales, Cal's Carlos Rodriguez and Washington's Toshi Oonishi are other front-runners.

The hardest weight class for Oregon to score in will be 150. Danny Hollembaek will find the

going tough against the likes of Doug Ziebart from Oregon State.

In the 167 class, Oregon's Randy Besaw is hoping to overcome a shoulder injury in order to place. "If he wins," said Finley, "It's going to be on his aggressiveness and his desire to win."

At 190, Bob Bragg is rated a good shot to win.

After shaking off frostbite, late Trojan rally

Kamikaze Kids edge SC 70-67

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Oregon moved into a three-way tie for second place in the Pacific-8 Conference by edging Southern California 70-67 Thursday night in a game the Ducks almost didn't win at all.

The Kamikaze Kids had to rally from an 11-point deficit in the early goings and, after

building a solid lead themselves, had to stave off a torrid Trojan comeback to extend their win streak to eight straight games.

The Ducks are now 16-9 overall and 7-3 in Pac-8.

Junior forward Greg Ballard and senior guard Ron Lee scored 19 points each in

handing the Trojans their 11th straight loss. USC is now 11-12 overall and winless in 10 conference games.

After trailing 68-61 with 3:43 to play, the Trojans pulled to within one point at 68-67 with 41 seconds left to play on an Earl Evans tip-in.

But the Ducks went into their stall game, and Mark Barwig worked free for an uncontested lay-in with ten seconds to go to ice the game.

Oregon trailed 43-36 at halftime but staged a 16-5 blitz at the beginning of the second half to move into the lead to stay.

After shooting 71 per cent from the floor in the first half, the Trojans scored just one field goal during a 6½ minute stretch in the second half.

A three-point play by the 6-8 Ballard gave Oregon its first lead of the game at 48-47 with 17:12 to play.

The Trojans, following their recent pattern, broke on top 9-0, then 13-2 and 17-7 behind the shooting of Marv Stafford, who had 17 points and Evans, who also had 17.

But Oregon's aggressive defense began to force USC turnovers and the Ducks crept to within one point of the Trojans at 26-25. Ballard played a key role in the Oregon surge, scoring eight points in a 3½ minute span.

Steve Malovic led the Trojans in scoring with 19 points.

Southern California outshot Oregon from the field (22 of 39 compared to Oregon's 30 of 69) and at the line (23 of 31 to the Ducks' 10 of 18). The Ducks won the boards, 36-29.

Oregon now moves across town to face UCLA, 78-69 winners over Oregon State, Saturday. The Bruins have now won 98 straight games at Pauley Pavilion.

OREGON (70) — Mack 6, Ballard 19, Geoff Nelson, Barwig 11, Lee 19, Drummond 4, Graham 1, Jackson 2, Coldren 2, Moreck 2, Hartshome, Gary Nelson 4.
SOUTHERN CAL (67) — White 6, Trowbridge 2, Malovic 19, Safford 17, Evans 17, Jones 6, Boyd.
FOULS — Oregon 26, Southern Cal 20.
FOULED OUT — None
ATT. — 3,604

Pacific-8 round-up

Beavs fade in stretch, 78-69; Oregon now tied for second

Pacific-8

	W	L	Pct.	GB	Overall
UCLA	9	1	.900	—	20-3
Oregon	7	3	.700	2	16-9
Oregon State	7	3	.700	2	15-8
Washington	7	3	.700	2	20-3
Washington State	6	4	.600	3	16-6
California	3	7	.300	6	11-11
Stanford	1	9	.100	8	7-16
Southern Cal	0	10	.000	9	11-12

Thursday's results

Oregon 70, Southern California 67
UCLA 78, Oregon State 69
Washington 80, Stanford 59
Washington State 98, California 85

From AP reports

LOS ANGELES — Centers Ralph Drollinger and David Greenwood led a second-half UCLA surge Thursday night as the fifth-ranked Bruins scored a 78-69 victory over Oregon State, strengthening their grip on first place in the Pacific-8 Conference.

The Beavers led 62-60 with five minutes to play when Drollinger, a 7-foot-1 senior, came off the bench. He was almost immediately fouled by OSU's star forward Lonnie Shelton, his fifth of the game.

Shelton fouled out on the play and Drollinger hit two succeeding free

throws to begin a scoring spree during which he scored eight of the Bruins' next 11 points. That gave UCLA a 71-67 lead with 1:35 left.

Washington, 80-59

SEATTLE — Clarence Ramsey scored a season's high 36 points to lead the 11th-ranked Huskies to an easy Pac-8 win over Stanford.

The 6-4 senior guard scored 11 points in the first six minutes of the second half when Washington went on a 17-4 scoring spurt to grab a 54-37 lead.

Washington State, 98-85

PULLMAN — Center Steve Puidokas and two other Washington State players scored more than 20 points apiece to pace the Cougars to a 98-85 Pac-8 win over Cal.

Puidokas was good for 27 points, followed by Ron Davis with 25 and Norton Barnhill with 21.

Davis' 25 points helped the Cougars to a 48-36 halftime advantage, but not before the Bears had closed to within 35-31 with 4:04 to go in the half.

Less than two minutes into the second half, WSU pulled ahead by 17 points at 53-36.

Gymnasts seek third PNW title

Oregon, coming off its best dual meet season in history, will attempt to defend its Pacific Northwest Championship title when the annual event opens at Mac Court this weekend.

With two consecutive PNW titles behind it, Oregon will be seeking its third straight championship in the last meet before the Pac-8 Championships scheduled for Eugene March 4-6, challenging the Ducks for team honors are squads from Washington, Washington State and Portland State.

Optional competition is set for 8 p.m. Friday with compulsory events to begin at 1 p.m. Saturday. Optional finals are slated for 8 p.m. Saturday. There is no admission charge for the Saturday afternoon event.

Tickets for the two-day event are now on sale at the University ticket office. Family tickets are \$4 per night. General admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for students through grade 12 and for University students.

Washington is led by senior all-arounder Bjorn Hermansson. Earlier this season he set the fourth highest all-around score in the Pacific-8 with a combined score of 52.15 in the six events.

Washington State was one of only two teams to defeat Oregon last year in dual meet competition. The Cougars will depend on all-arounder Bob Dickmeyer to fill graduated Dubi Lufi's shoes.

Portland State, coming off its best season ever last year (10-3), sports a young and inexperienced team. The Vikings rely heavily on David Douglass graduate Steve Monroe. He captured first place in the Oregon open all-around competition last December with a total score of 51.80.

Ducks fall hard, 62-28

PORTLAND — Portland State, traditionally one of the toughest teams in the northwest, dealt Oregon a harsh, 62-28 defeat Thursday night in women's basketball.

The Ducks host Dr. Bernard's AAU team Sunday at 5 p.m. in B-54 of Gerlinger Annex.