

Oregon to play host to powerful Beavers

By NICK DAWSON
Of the Emerald

Oregon's ever-improving wrestling team will face one of the country's finest squads when 6th-ranked Oregon State visits MacArthur Court, Friday, Jan. 27, at 7:30 p.m.

Ron Finley's Ducks have made a habit this year of beating teams ranked in the top 20, doing it three times, and have been rewarded for their efforts by being ranked 15th in the most recent poll, despite a 6-8 dual meet record.

However, adding the Beavers to the defeated list will be a totally different matter.

"Our chance of beating them is extremely low," admitted Finley. "The problem lies in that our best wrestlers are where their best wrestlers are."

The Beavers are led by six potential All-Americans, according to Finley. Dan Hicks is currently undefeated in the 142 pound class, while 118 pounder Pat Plourd and 158 pounder Ron Ziebart have lost only one match each. Other potential Beaver All-Americans are 150 pounder Dick Knorr, 177 pounder Marty Ryan and heavyweight Howard Harris.

Oregon State is so powerful they have a legitimate chance at shutting out the Ducks, feels Finley. "Every match we win will be an upset. I'm hoping for five upsets, a couple of those by fall."

Oregon hopes will hinge on a number of different individuals.

Finley believes pins are necessary at the 167 and 190 pound weights if Oregon is to have a chance. Freshman Jeff Stuebing will wrestle against Beaver senior

Ducks fly south for UCLA meet

After a weekend that saw the end of their consecutive dual meet win-streak, the Oregon Gymnastics team travels to Los Angeles this Friday for the annual UCLA Invitational.

New Mexico, whom the Ducks defeated 217-208.6 last Saturday night after losing to Arizona state on Friday, will be joined by Washington and host UCLA as Duck foes.

"On the face of it, we would appear to be the favorite," said Oregon coach Bill Ballester. "UCLA is much stronger than last year, but hopefully we'll be able to go down there and eliminate a few bugs."

Jim Kelch, Oregon's top all-around man, has been bitten by the flu since last week, but his headaches from infected sinuses appear to be abating.

In addition, the Ducks' standout on the rings, Scott McEldowney, has been bothered by a sore right shoulder, and Jim Hamilton, another all-rounder, has been suffering with sore back muscles.

Nevertheless, the Ducks are riding the laurels of some pretty fine performances from last weekend. Among them, Mark Knupp won the floor exercise, parallel bars, and vault to be named the outstanding gymnast against New Mexico, and sophomore Gene Christensen carded a personal all-around best of 53.7 against ASU.

Oregon Daily Emerald

Bob Hess in the former weight, while Don Brown will probably face Howard Harris of OSU at 190. Neither will be an easy match.

Wins in the 126, 134 and possibly the 158 pound division are also essential, said Finley, adding Duck 177 pounder Randy Besaw could upset Ryan, though he has been sick this week.

All the matches should be interesting, Finley said. "You could go right down the line. As far as the matchups go, there's going to be some good matchups."

The top match of the evening could be in the 150 pound division, where the Duck's Scott Bliss, 23-3 on the year, and the Beaver's Knorr, 16-3, will face one another.

Finley expects Duck 118 — pounder Norm Knight to be back in action after sitting out two weeks with an injured shoulder.

"If we should even win, it will definitely be close," Finley states. "We're going to do the best job we can."

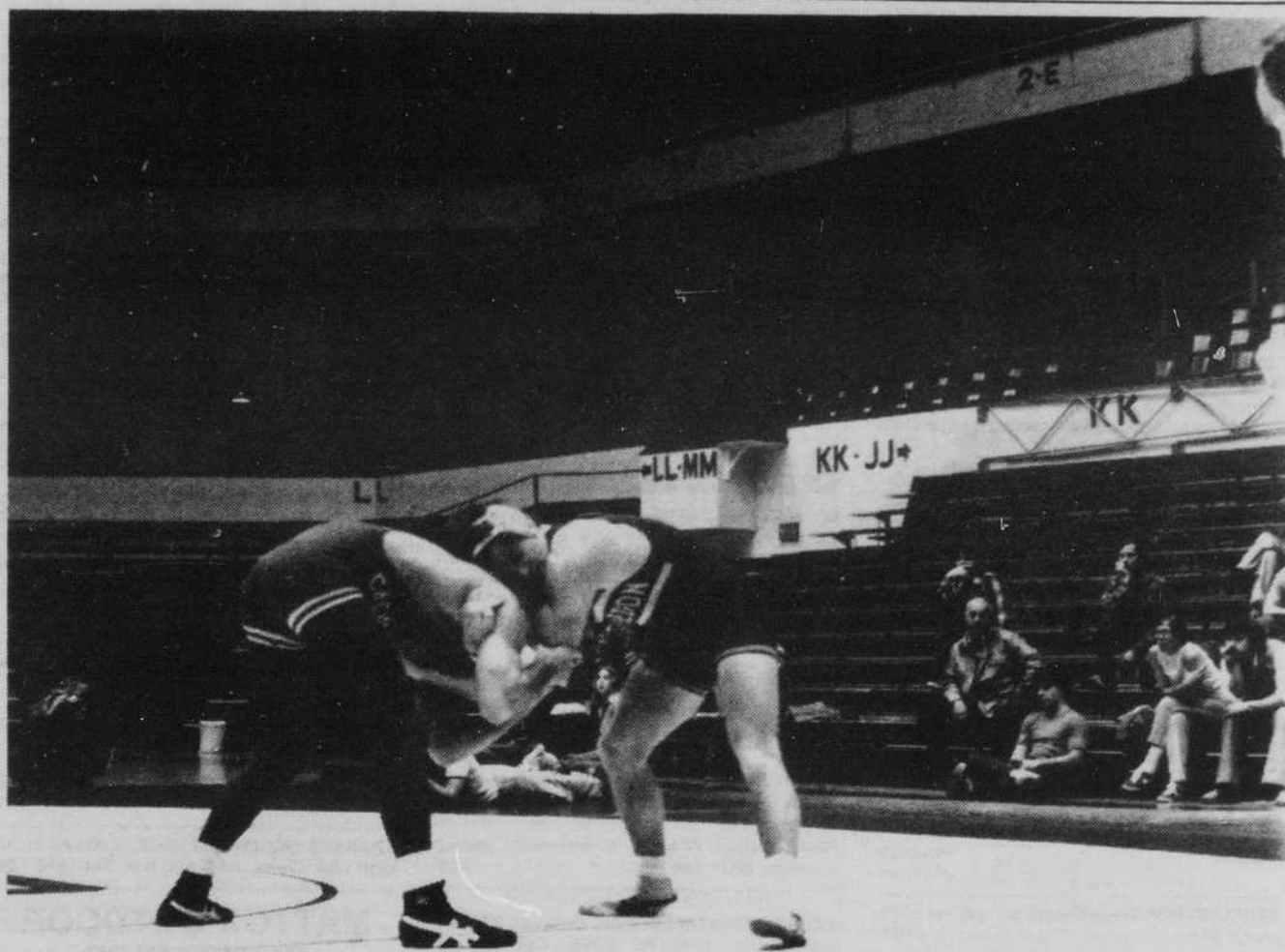


Photo courtesy Athletic Department
Barry Boyles, Oregon 142 pounder, will be hard pressed to get a win Friday night when Oregon State visits Eugene. Boyles will face undefeated Dan Hicks. Oregon Coach Ron Finley will be looking for only his second victory over the Beavers in the eight years he's coached here.

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