

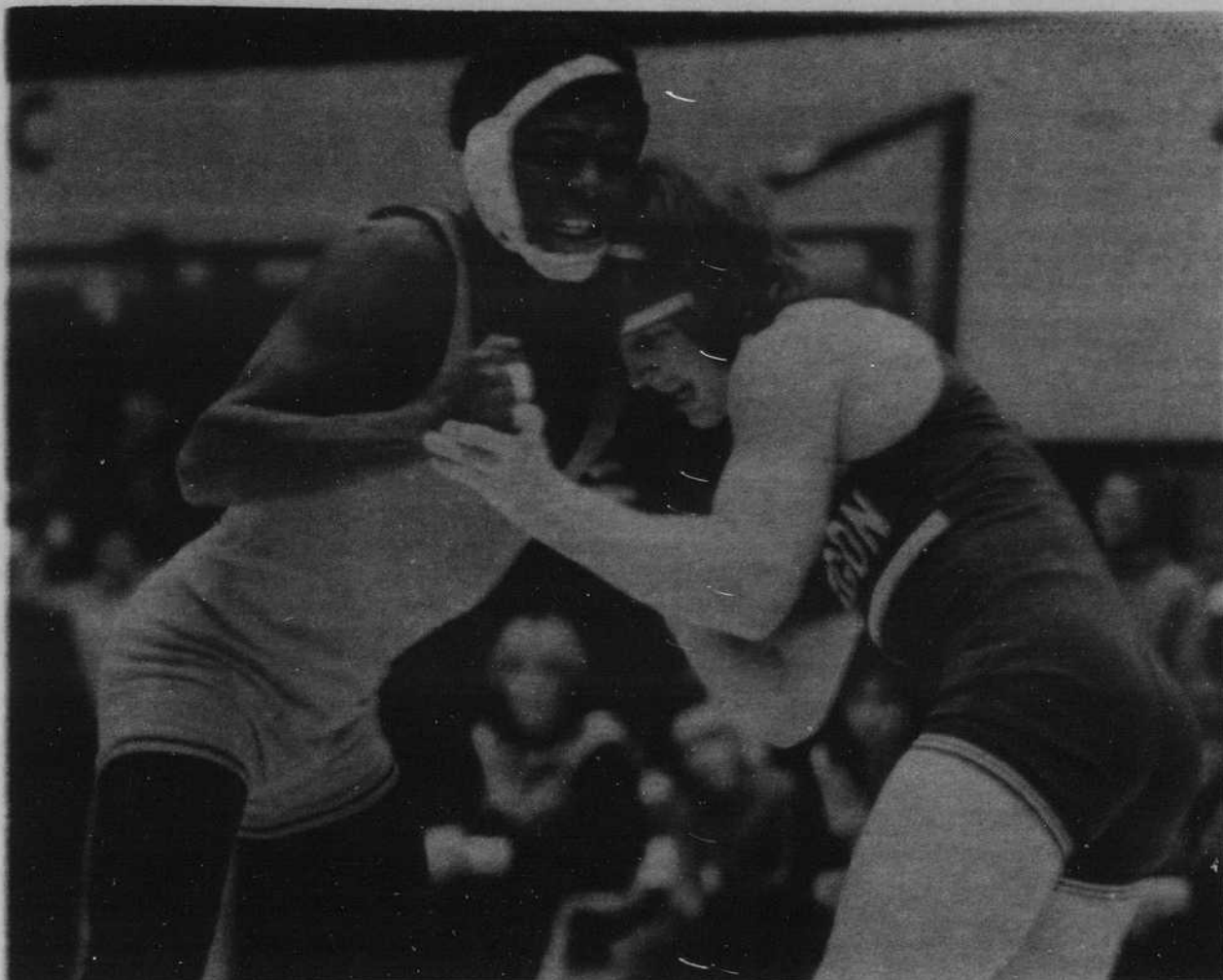


Photo by John Harris

It didn't come easily, but freshman Bill Nugent, right, beat Oklahoma State's Thomas Landrum 12-8.

Grapplers roped again

The 260-odd wrestling fans who slipped and slid into Mac Court Monday night got their money's worth when Oregon freshman Bill Nugent turned in a second consecutive stirring performance by besting Oklahoma State's Thomas Landrum 12-8.

For the second straight night Nugent was one of three Ducks to win, and for the second night in a row Oregon was overwhelmed by one of the nation's top teams. Sunday night the Ducks were beaten 36-16 by Oklahoma, and Monday night they fell to fifth-ranked Oklahoma State 32-14. Against Oklahoma, Nugent upset

national runner-up Frank DeAngelis 16-6.

"Billy just keeps improving," said Oregon coach Ron Finley after Monday's match. "People question whether we should be wrestling as tough as teams as we do so often, and Billy's the exact reason why we do. Competition like he's had the past two nights is just great for him."

In addition to Nugent's victory, Oregon got a surprise win from 177-pounder Ryan Kelly, who entered the match with a 5-8 record. Kelly, a sophomore, overcame a 9-8 third period deficit to defeat Gary Germundson 12-10. Germundson is a junior and the owner

of a 12-5-1 mark.

The feature match of the night took place at 150, where the Ducks' Scott Bliss, ranked fourth in the nation, met undefeated Charles Shelton, the nation's sixth-ranked wrestler. Bliss went ahead 4-3 with 1:23 left in the match on a takedown, but Shelton escaped 10 seconds later and the match ended in a 4-4 draw.

Oregon's remaining points came when the Cowboys forfeited the heavyweight division to the Ducks' Craig Schoene.

Oregon 190-pounder Don "No Neck" Brown suffered his second defeat in successive nights when he was shutout 12-0 by Eric Wais, the country's top 190-pounder.

"I've known Wais for a long time," said Brown, "and the first thing he said after the match was, 'You've got to be more aggressive.'"

"They (Wais and Oklahoma's Edgar Thomas) came at me all offense, and I can't get my offense going when I'm on the defense. I have to get more intense," Brown stated.

one of them. And I know they feel they have a good chance."

Of Oregon's two wins in Illinois last week, Ballester was especially pleased with the NCAA Invitational performance.

"In the Illinois-Circle meet we went out tight and were just flat," explains Ballester, "but on Friday we loosened up and competed well."

Banner performances in the NCAA Invitational were turned in by Marty Vasey and Randy Beard. Vasey was first in the vault, while Beard won the high bar with a 9.70 score.

While generating a 213 team total, team performances in the vault and high bar were above normal.

"The high bar was super," explains Ballester, "and in vaulting we scored a 37.40, which is an all-time team high."

Also, in the NCAA Invitational, Oregon's Mark Knupp finished second behind NCAA all-American R.D. Webster from Arizona State in the floor exercise. The Duck's Miki Moyal finished second in the all-around competition.

But even with two solid wins last week, Ballester insists his Ducks did not reach their full potential. "We could have scored 219 or 220 had we warmed up to the maximum."

Entertain Fullerton

Flying Ducks return

By STEVE JETT
Of the Emerald

Home meets are a scarcity this season for the Oregon men's gymnastics team, and after two away meets in three days last week, coach Bill Ballester and the Flying Ducks will have no trouble warming up to Mac Court for Thursday's 8 p.m. match with Cal-State Fullerton.

"In the past we have performed better in front of home crowds, and we are going into Thursday's meet trying to establish a record that will put us in the national rankings," said Ballester, whose team swept to wins over Illinois-Circle last Wednesday and in the Best of the NCAA Invitational on Friday in Wheaton, Illinois.

But while Ballester may be geared for the upcoming home meet, one of three this season, he is unfamiliar with Fullerton's abilities this season.

"I don't know that much about them," he says, "but they have traditionally been a strong West Coast independent team."

He also knows they finished eighth last year in the NCAA championships.

"Let's put it this way, there are four teams who can challenge for the two NCAA championship spots (from the Western regional), and I think Cal-State Fullerton is

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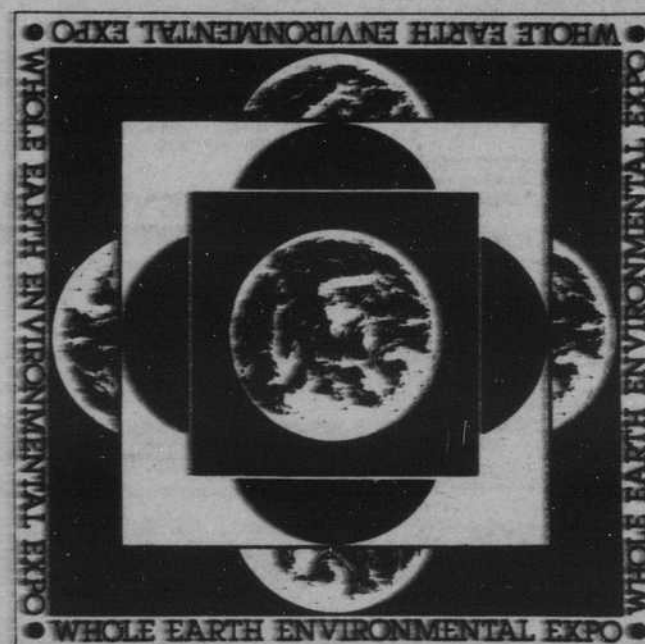
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