

Bliss, Nugent help wrap up Invitational

By JODY MURRAY
Of the Emerald

Oregon's wrestlers did what was expected of them last Saturday, winning handily in the Portland State Invitational.

The Ducks scored 88 team points to outdistance Oregon State (76 1/4) and San Jose State (40 1/4).

Oregon made it difficult for any of the 11 other teams to get close by putting championship or consolation finalists in nine of the 10 weights. OSU was the only team to even come close. The Beavers were led once again by heavyweight Howard Harris, who yawned to his 30th win of the season by pinning SJS's Casey Gulliford at 3:48.

"We used quite a few falls to make a good (team) score," said Oregon coach Ron Finley. "But we still missed a few matches that we could have done better in."

Oregon crowned two champs in the invitational. Scott Bliss increased his season record to 20-0-1 by defeating Washington's Art Booker, 19-3, in the 150-pound championship match. It was Bliss' second win over Booker in as many nights. Booker was on the short end of a 13-5 decision in the Duck's 32-14 dual meet win over Washington Friday night.

Oregon's Bill Nugent beat Oregon State's Gary Regier, 14-10, for the 134-pound crown. The Oregon sophomore's season record now stands at 22-2.

Rafe Mumford placed second in the 158-pound championship

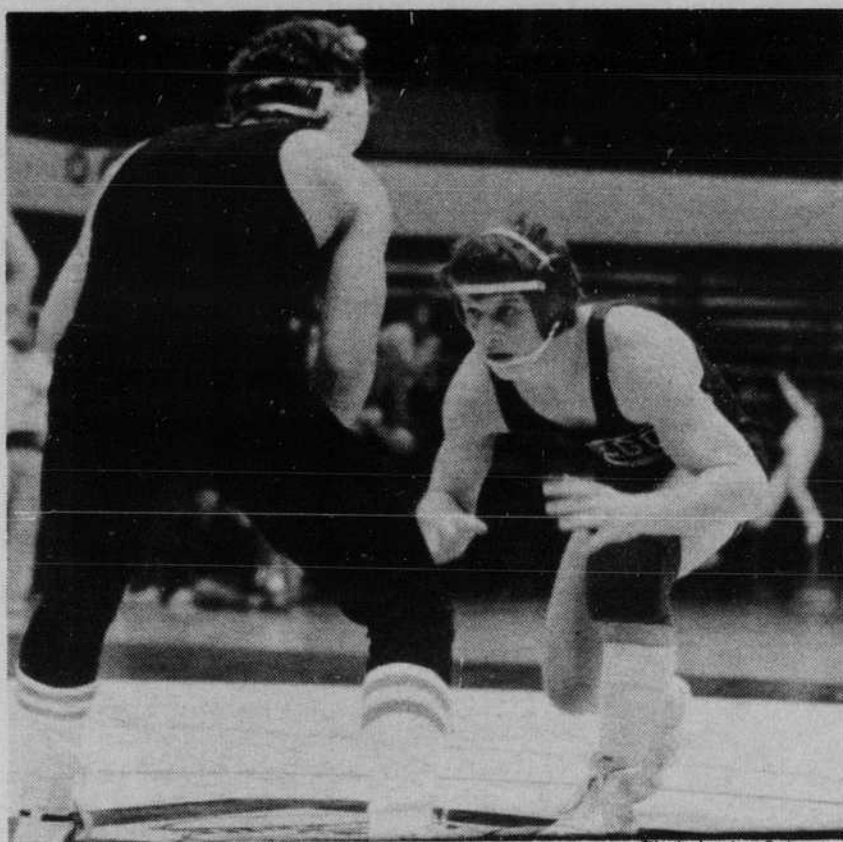


Photo by Joe Schnabel

Oregon's Dan Nugent played a key role in his club's wins over the past weekend. Nugent pinned his opponent in the Duck's win over Washington and won his weight class in the Portland State Invitational.

match, losing to PSU's Kevin Benson, 17-5.

Oregon's other runner-up, Mike Miller (177), had to forfeit the championship match after suffering a knee injury. Oregon coach Ron Finley isn't sure whether the Miller's knee is a "time loss injury," and will wait

for tests to discover if there is any ligament damage.

Five Oregon wrestlers placed in consolation finals: Russ Miller (126), Nelson Imamura (142), Jeff Stuebing (167) and Dan Cook (Hwt), third place; and Ryan Kelly (190), fourth place.

Oregon's Friday night win over the Huskies increased their

dual meet record to 12-2. They remain undefeated in the Pac-10 conference with a 3-0 mark.

The Ducks were led Friday by Nugent's pin of UW's Kent Walrack at 7:11. Stuebing also turned in a stellar performance, blitzing the Huskies Mike Hogaboam, 20-3.

Other results from the Wa-

shington meet (Oregon named first): Randy Ohta (118) lost to Brian Higa, 24-6; Russ Miller (126) was defeated by Mitch Powers, 10-7; Imamura (142) lost to Marc De Matieo, 8-5; Rafe Mumford (156) won by default; Mike Miller (177) won by default; Kelly (190) lost to Mike Garrison; and Cook (Hwt) beat Greg Olson, 18-6.

Men deal Cards a 77-73 defeat

Just when Oregon basketball fans expect their team to sink down to the very bottom, the drowning Ducks surprise everyone and struggle to stay afloat.

After being dumped by the lowly California Bears Thursday night, a loss that put the Ducks into the cellar of the Pac-10, Oregon shed their cement overshoes Saturday night and rose again. The Stanford Cardinals were the club that the Ducks snuck up on this time, and although the final score was close, 77-73, Oregon almost made it look easy.

It was the most unlikely element — shooting — that propelled Oregon to a comfortable 41-29 halftime lead. Jerome Williams, subbing for Ron Burns who played his second consecutive poor game on this roadtrip, and Mike Clark both hit

for 16 points to spark the Ducks. All told, Oregon shot a phenomenal 62.1 percent in the first half — a far cry from the team's season mark of 43 percent.

After fighting against a ten point lead throughout most of the second half, Stanford began to come back, pulling within three with 1:15 left to go. The Cards went to a tight man to man defense and pressured the Oregon guards, who, obligingly gave up the turnovers that let Stanford back into the game.

But Stanford could not capitalize on the mistakes, and Oregon came through with cool free throw shooting at the end to hang on to its second conference victory of the year.

Oregon is now tied for eighth in the conference with Cal while Stanford sinks to last place.

Ducks top two foes

The University women's basketball team used accurate shooting to claim two victories this past weekend over Washington State and Eastern Washington.

The Ducks blasted the Cougars 78-59 Friday night on the strength of 50 percent shooting from the floor and 91 percent from the free throw line. Bev Smith led the Oregon team with 24 points and 12 rebounds while Suzanne Washington added 13.

The two teams played even for most of the first half with Oregon taking a seven point lead to the lockerroom. After the break, though, the Ducks simply wore the Cougars down with their fast break, outscoring the host team 37-25 down the stretch.

Saturday night's matchup against Eastern Washington was expected to be a closer contest, but the final score didn't reflect that fact. The red hot Oregon women burned up the nets once again, hitting 60 percent of their shots to rip the Eagles, 93-66.

Smith was high scorer for the second straight night with 25 while Debbie Adams backed her with 23. Also in double figures for the Ducks were Mary Ann Stoican with 12 and Washington with 10.

The two wins give the Ducks a 5-0 league record and boosts them to 12-4 on the season. Oregon plays Wednesday night at Portland State and then returns home for a game Thursday against Montana.

Oregon Daily Emerald

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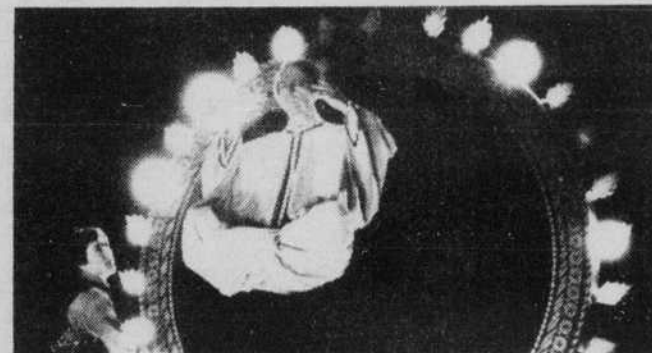
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