

# Wrestlers nail down fifth-ranked Cal Poly

Jeff Stuebing of Oregon defeated Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo's Dale Ambler in what Oregon wrestling coach Ron Finley called "the big match of the night" as the seventh-ranked Ducks nipped the fifth-ranked Mustangs, 20-18.

Stuebing beat Ambler, 12-11, in the 167-pound match. The Oregon wrestler was behind 11-10 with precious little time left in the match, but managed a two-point nearfall with no time remaining to pull out the win.

## Knox selected coach of year

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — For turning the also-ran Buffalo Bills into a National Football League division champion, Chuck Knox has been named Associated Press coach of the year for the second time in eight years.

He edged Leeman Bennett of the Atlanta Falcons by one vote in balloting announced Tuesday.

"I think it's a compliment to our players and to my assistant coaches and reflects on the Buffalo Bills," Knox said of the honor.

The Bills feel the same way about their coach.

Free safety Bill Simpson, who came out of retirement to play for Buffalo this season, said Knox was the only head coach who could have talked him into returning.

"We owe it all to him," said linebacker Shane Nelson, one of 15 veterans left from the team Knox took over in January 1978. "He came in and showed us how to win."

Knox received 27½ of 84 votes cast by a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters — three from each NFL city. Bennett, one of his closest friends, was second with 26½ and Sam Rutigliano of the Cleveland Browns was third with 18. The only other coach to receive more than three votes was Oakland's Tom Flores, with four.

Buffalo's 11-5 squad which won this season's American Football Conference East title barely resembles the team Knox inherited, a 5-23 team in the two preceding seasons.

Buffalo was 5-11 in Knox' first year and 7-9 last season before winning its first playoff berth since 1974 and first division title since 1966 in the old American Football League. However, Buffalo was eliminated from the playoffs in the first round Saturday, losing 20-14 to the San Diego Chargers.

"Getting that far and then losing was a disappointment," Knox acknowledged.

Knox also was AP coach of the year in 1973, when he turned the 6-7-1 Los Angeles Rams into a 12-2 National Football Conference West champion. It was the first of five straight division titles for the Rams, who were 54-15-1 under Knox from 1973 through 1977.

"That match really saved us from losing," said Oregon coach Ron Finley. "We felt that if we could win two of the first four matches tonight, we could have a good shot at the win. We got an addition when (Cliff) Porter, our 134 pounder, won his match."

Despite Stuebing's heroics, the meet still hinged on the outcome of the heavyweight match. The Ducks' Dan Cook took on Cal Poly's Curt Wiedenhoefler, in what turned out to be the meet's lone default of the evening.

Cook trailed 7-4 with just 1:34 remaining in the match, but a

two-point nearfall by Cook proved fatal for Weiderhoefer as he dislocated his shoulder. The team doctor could not repair the shoulder in the allotted two minutes and Weiderhoefer was forced to default, giving Oregon its tenth straight win of the season.

"This was definitely out and out the closest match of the season," Finley said. "I was really pleased with our performance. It was just a super performance."

"A win like this really helps us a lot. We feel that the meet is never over until the final match. Nobody on this team is down at

all. The team spirit is obviously there."

118 — Mike Erb (O) dec. Larry Nickelson, 10-4; 126 — Mike Barfuss (CP) dec. Miles Hancock, 13-2; 134 — Cliff Porter (O) dec. Jeff Barksdale, 5-3; 142 — Chris Cain (CP)

dec. Jeff Nugent, 10-6; 150 — Louie Montano (CP) pinned Keith Beutler, 3:09; 158 — Craig Troxler (CP) dec. Rick O'Shea, 5-4; 167 — Stuebing (O) dec. Ambler, 12-11; 177 — Mike Miller dec. Burt Ekern, 5-4; 190 — Kelly Drew with Wayne Christiansen, 1-1; Cook by default over Weiderhoefer, 6:26.

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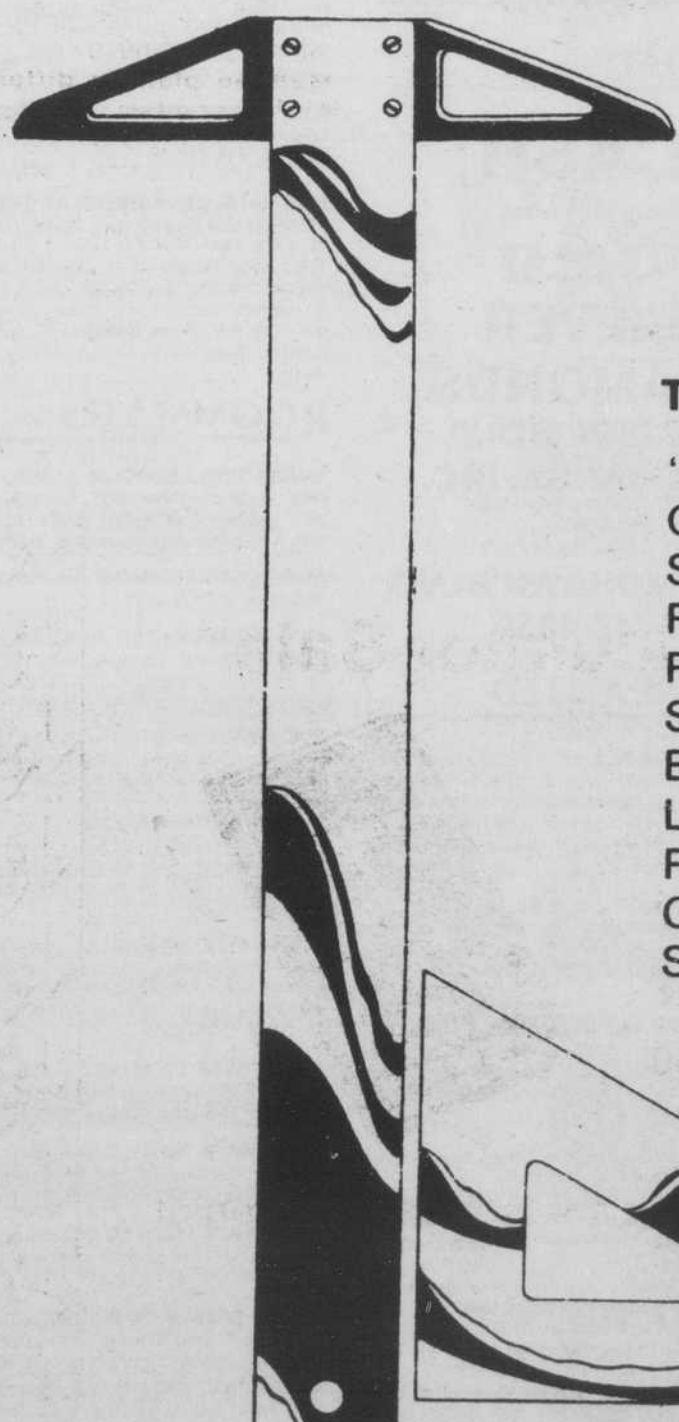
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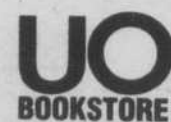


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