

The push to pack the Pit

Wrestlers shoot for top attendance

Coming off a successful Midwest road trip, Oregon's wrestling team is out to fill McArthur Court Saturday night as the Ducks take on



Emerald photo

Wrestling coach Ron Finley will study results on the mat and in the stands Saturday.

Brigham Young University at 7:30.

The Cougar match is billed as "Wrestling Appreciation Night" as the Ducks try to set an all-time college dual match attendance record.

Oregon, 17-2 this season, should have their hands full with perennially tough BYU, which returns two defending WAC champs, Chris Taylor and Billy Boyd.

Taylor, ranked seventh nationally with a 14-4 record, defeated number-one-ranked Randy Willingham of Oklahoma State this season. His four losses came against other nationally ranked wrestlers.

"This should be a very tough and exciting match," says Oregon coach Ron Finley.

"We're going to make this a showcase for wrestling. Everybody in the state asks what they can do to help the sport of wrestling. Coming to this meet will be a good step," Finley says.

"This is to show those who don't appreciate the popularity of wrestling that, yes, wrestling is alive in the State of Oregon and people do care about it."

Finley cited two wrestlers, Dan Cook and Ryan Kelly, as doing an excellent job on the Midwestern road trip.

Cook had three pins, two of which decided were the winning difference for the Ducks. He also recorded Oregon's only win in the loss to Iowa State. Kelly went 2-23, but both of his losses came against the second- and third-rated wrestlers in the country.

Robinson resigns, accepts YMCA post

By TAMARA SWENSON
Of the Emerald

The challenge of a new job, and not the pressures of the old, has prompted the resignation of athletic department business manager Greg Robinson.

Robinson, who juggled the athletic department budget for the past two years, has accepted a similar job with the Eugene YMCA.

"It's a new position (at the YMCA) with a new computer and I'll have a chance to build — to create in an individual way," Robinson said.

"It's the sort of challenge I love."

Robinson's decision has been met with mixed emotions within the athletic department.

"Greg has done a great job for us in the past two years," said Athletic Director John Caine. "He's worked hard for us."

"But it's even harder (to lose Robinson to the YMCA) than it would be if he were going to L.A. or someplace else."

"We all wish him the best, though," Caine said.

During Robinson's tenure at

the University, the athletic department has been forced to work with rapidly increasing costs but no huge jump in revenues, Caine said.

"Greg has handled the situation remarkably," Caine said. "But it has been difficult for him — it's been hard on everyone."

"The burden has grown heavier and heavier on him. I don't think anybody could ever go through any more."

Belt-tightening problems at the University didn't prompt his decision, said Robinson. "I decided to take the job with the YMCA because of its attraction. It's very community oriented, service oriented."

"I do have mixed feelings about leaving," he said. "I've enjoyed working at the athletic department, but I feel I'm making the right decision."

Robinson also stressed his resignation was not related to Ed Swartz's resignation in January. Swartz served as Oregon's association athletic director for four years.

"It's totally a career move," Robinson said. "I'm taking the job because I want it."

"I'm an Oregon alum and I'll always be a Duck, but people make career choices."

Robinson did say that while everyone in the athletic department was supportive of his decision, others expressed shock and dismay.

"It's the reaction of the press that I find interesting," Robinson said. "When I moved from (the University's) internal audit to the athletic department, there wasn't a mention of it."

"But now everyone's talking to me. It's not as if I'm a coach or anything like that."



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