

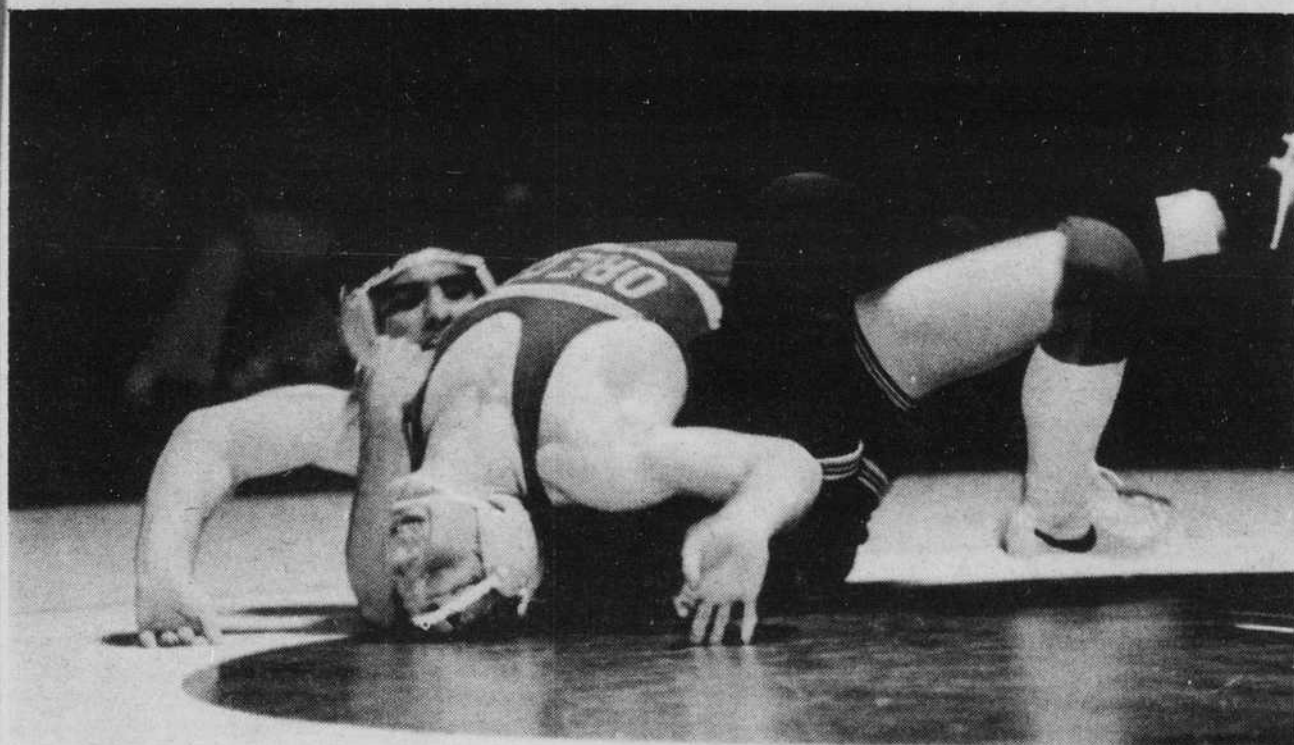


Photo by David W. Zahn

Bill Nugent overcame this momentary inconvenience to beat Arizona State's Joe Solorio, 14-5.

Wrestlers tumble to ASU in final match of evening

By MIKE RIPLINGER
Of the Emerald

A fierce comeback by the Oregon wrestling team came one point short as they dropped a dual meet to Pacific-10 rival Arizona State, 20-19, in tense action at McArthur Court Saturday night.

The Ducks also destroyed Southern Oregon College 38-8 and Utah State 29-5 last weekend to push their season record to 21-3.

The sixth-ranked Ducks' loss to ASU was a heartbreaker, though, as Oregon's comeback in the upper weights fell just short of beating the seventh-ranked Sun Devils.

"I was disappointed that we had lost, but I wasn't disappointed with the way that we wrestled," said Oregon coach Ron Finley.

"It was a very good dual meet. We had good performances, with everyone giving 100 percent. I was pleased with the way that we came back in the upper weights to almost win the match."

With the Ducks behind 17-4, Jeff Stuebing got things rolling as he scored a superior decision over Chris Fuertsch. Mike Miller got a super-superior win

over Terry Herndon and Ryan Kelly added a third-round pin of Mike Severn to put Oregon ahead for the first time all night, 19-18.

The stage was set as Dan Cook took on Dan Severn, second ranked in the country and last year's second-place finisher at the NCAA championships, with the winner deciding the outcome of the match.

Cook took Severn to a 4-3 first-round lead, but the ASU All-American came back strong to go ahead 7-6 at the end of the second period.

The crowd was on its feet, roaring throughout the third period as Cook fought to get the takedown which would make himself and Oregon a winner.

Unfortunately for the Ducks, Severn showed why he is an All-American by staying beside the edge of the mat, going out of bounds everytime Cook came close to taking him down. Fighting off Cook, Severn took an extremely hard-fought match, 8-6, to push ASU past the Ducks.

"Cook gave a tremendous effort against Severn," said Finley. "He went with, as far as I'm concerned, the number-one heavyweight in the country.

They fought it out for three tough rounds, just about dead-even all the way."

Bill Nugent got the only other win for the Ducks as he decided Joe Solorio, 14-5. Nugent showed he is in top form in beating Solorio, who lost to former Oregon All-American Scott Bliss last year by a single point in the Pac-10 Conference finals.

"Bill really looked good and did a superb job against Solorio," said Finley. "Solorio is a tough wrestler and I'm sure that was the most points scored on him in a long time."

As the Ducks approach this year's Pac-10 meet, they are strengthened by the return of Barry Boyles and Mike Erb.

Erb showed his stuff against Utah State in what Finley called "the highlight of the match" when he beat Tracy Moore, who is ranked seventh in the nation.

"Overall, I'm pleased with the way we've been performing," said Finley. "We are wrestling tough, going after our opponents better than ever before."

"We are just about ready to peak, and this just the right time to do it, with the conference and national tournaments coming up."

Beavers upset swimming team

Oregon State University won the last event of the meet to score a 71-69 upset over the Oregon women's swimming team Saturday.

The Beavers were clocked at 3:45.24 in the 400 freestyle relay, inching the Ducks' 3:45.86. Before this event, Oregon had led 68-65.

Oregon's Kathy Hemmer qualified for the AIAW championships in the 1,000 freestyle with a time of 10:22.37, more than two seconds under the national standard.

Oregon, now 5-3 on the year, won 10 of 16 events. Oregon State improved to 9-6. Oregon's next competition will be Feb. 25-28 in Pullman, Wash., at the Northwest Collegiate Women's Sports Association Championships.

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