

Webfoots set for Nor-Pac

By DOUG LEVY
Of the Emerald

Oregon's men's swimming team will be on its home "turf" this week as the Webfoots compete in the Nor-Pac Championships today through Saturday at Leighton Pool.

The Ducks, who finished the season with an 8-2 dual-meet record, have performed well in recent Nor-Pacs, taking first-place two years ago and second last year. This year, Oregon "will be fighting for fourth or fifth," concedes Oregon coach Rich Schleicher. "We just don't have the depth that some of the other teams do."

The overwhelming favorite for the title is defending champion University of Washington, says Schleicher. "They have so much depth, nobody can compare to them."

The Huskies feature a quartet of nationally ranked swimmers — Steve Doherty and Sandy Blyth in freestyle events, Stan Vela in freestyle and backstroke, and Scott Seelye in the butterfly and backstroke.

Schleicher is pegging University of Puget Sound for second and Simon Fraser University of Canada for third. "We will be battling Simon

Fraser and Idaho for a third or fourth," says Oregon's fourth-year coach.

Individually, Oregon has a few swimmers who could win their events: George Koch, Jeff Morgan, and Sam Glass.

Koch, Oregon's nationally ranked breast-stroker, is the defending champ in both the 100- and 200-meter breaststroke. Morgan is back to defend his title in the 200-meter butterfly, but "Jeff will be competing against a lot of super swimmers," says Schleicher.

Glass could be a factor in middle distance and sprint events, "although Sam has been sick this week, and that might affect his performance," Schleicher says.

Others who should do well, Schleicher says, are Dale Lagergren, Geoff Andrus, and Scott Frury.

The Ducks will also be using the Nor-Pac meet to prepare for the Pacific-10 Conference championships March 12-14 in Los Angeles. Schleicher calls the Pac-10 "the toughest league in the nation. I would say that 80 to 85 percent of the Olympic team is made up of swimmers from the Pac-10."

Time trials and qualifying start at noon each day, while finals begin at 7:30 each night.

Gymnasts vault against PSU

Oregon's fifth-ranked men's gymnastics team will try to improve its 5-2 record tonight as the Ducks take on Portland State University in Portland.

Portland State will not present any problem for the Ducks, but the meet is "still important to

keep up our scores and our record for the NCAA selections," says Oregon coach Bill Ballester. "I'm starting to feel good about this team. We're about to hit the 275.0 (team score) mark."

The Ducks returned from their

Arizona road trip with a tough loss to Arizona State, 272.55-270.95. However Oregon recovered to defeat 22nd-ranked Arizona 272-20-263.05

"We just got beat. We didn't compete well," says Ballester of the ASU meet. "In the past, we've had the luxury of having a bad meet and winning, but that isn't true this year. Arizona State has tremendous talent, but I still think we can beat them."

Improvement in the younger gymnasts gives Oregon the edge they need, Ballester says.

"(Johnny) Moyal is coming on, (Raul) Tello is coming on, and Dean Mannus had a good meet against Arizona. A lot of it has to do with the fact that we're getting over our injuries," says Ballester.

Following the Portland State meet, Oregon will have three meets against ranked teams — ninth-ranked Cal-State Fullerton, 12th-ranked Brigham Young and 13th-ranked New Mexico. "I think the Arizona State meet will be the last one we'll lose. We're ready to win the rest of our meets and go 10-2," says Ballester.

Angeles, throwing for 2,100 yards last season with a 58 percent completion rate.

Volkle, 6-4, 252, and Johnson, 5-11, 172, finished their high-school season on all-conference teams in Washington, while Wilchuck, 6-6, 210, was the player of the year in the Province of Saskatchewan.

Jaraczski, 6-4, 215, was an all-state offensive tackle in Montana.

The in-state recruiting list was topped by Mike Jorgensen, 6-1, 185, who also was recruited by Oregon State. Jorgensen, a quarterback and punter, is expected to be the only recruit who will step immediately into a starting position — as a punter to replace graduating senior Mike Babb.

Other top in-state recruits include Ken Warner, 6-3, 230, OG; Scott Holman, 6-2, 178, WR; Drew Smetana, 6-7, 240, DOL; Todd Bland, 6-2, 205, FB; and Lerry Wilson, 6-3, 225, LB.

Ducks sign top recruits during football letter' day

Letter-of-intent day brought many bright notes for the Oregon football team as the Ducks signed 19 players for the incoming freshman class.

"This is as good a group as any we've brought in in four years," said Oregon coach Rich Brooks. "I feel good about the people we got."

Brooks had every reason to be pleased. On his list are a number of highly recruited players, including six Oregonians.

"We filled some holes class-wise," Brooks said. "Depth-wise, we're okay, but we needed some young guys who can come up to battle for the spots."

Topping the list of out-of-state recruits are quarterback Mike Owens, defensive tackle Karl Volkle, defensive back Ron Johnson, offensive lineman Jeff Jaraczski and linebacker Kurt Wilchuck.

Owens, 6-1, 185, was the AAA player of the year in Los

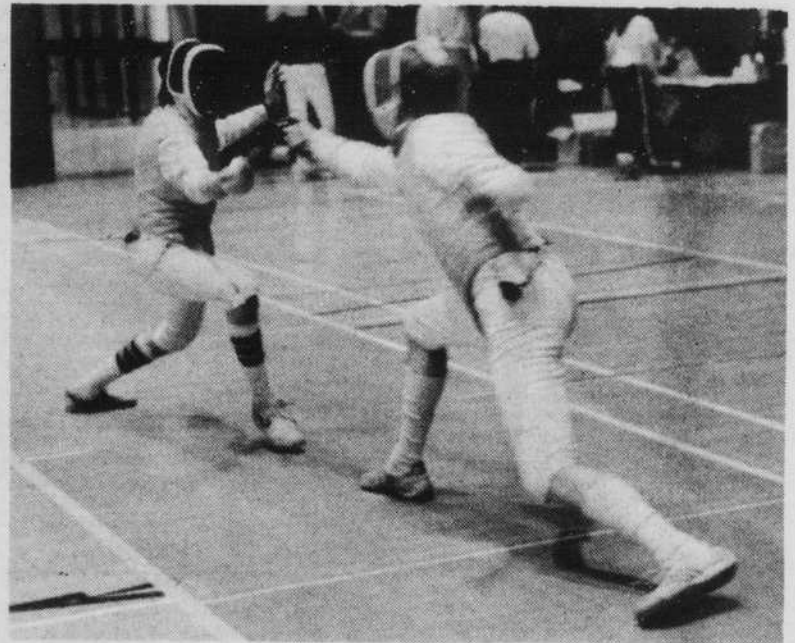


Photo by Rosemary Daszkiewicz

Brian Smith, who finished fourth in the epee, lunges at an opponent during last weekend's tournament in British Columbia.

University fencing team is always out to lunge

For most people, foil is what you wrap around roast beef. But four University students are discovering a sharper definition of the word.

As members of the University fencing team, they use the foil, as well as the sabre and epee, to apply that special "touch" to opponents.

"I liked the fact that it's an intellectual sport," says club member Jane Allen. "I've heard people refer to it as athletic chess."

Allen, plus teammates Rosemary Daszkiewicz, Brian Smith and Dan Leach, are continuing a tradition that has been passed on from Hamlet to Errol Flynn.

Fencing combines the ancient contact sport with modern electronics. Each fencer, attired in a protective mask and metallic suit, is wired to a buzzer. The buzzer sounds when a touch is made. A touch is hitting the opponent with the weapon on a valid target area.

Most bouts are decided when one fencer scores five touches. However, if the bout extends beyond five minutes, the first athlete to score after that time limit wins.

One can spend years learning all the moves, says Allen, therefore it can be very frustrating for the beginner. "Most people drop out in the first year," she says.

Once some of those lunges and feints are learned, the key to victory is how to use them, says Daszkiewicz. There are second- and even third-intention moves, in which a fencer uses one or two moves to draw away the opponent before using another move for the touch. Because of the sport's intricacies, says Allen, it gets more enjoyable as time goes on. "You rejoice in a well-planned attack," she says.

Last weekend, club members competed in a tournament at the University of British Columbia. Smith placed eighth in the epee.

Winter is the busy season for fencers, Allen says, with tournaments every weekend.

The club, still in its growing stages, meets every Tuesday and Thursday in Gerlinger Hall to practice this ancient-gone-modern sport.

"There's an aura about it," says Daszkiewicz. Allen smiles and adds, "A swashbuckling air."

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