

Matmen claim Pac-10 driver's seat

Seven advance to championship finals

By MIKE RIPLINGER
Of the Emerald

CORVALLIS — Oregon powered its way through the semifinals to take a commanding lead in the Pacific-10 Conference wrestling championships Sunday.

With a little help from a surprising Oregon State team, the Ducks have amassed 77½ points. Arizona State is barely ahead of Oregon State, amounting 59½ points to OSU's 59.

The Beavers upset a couple of top-ranked Sun Devils to open the door for the Ducks.

"Since OSU is doing so well, they have really helped us out," rapped Oregon coach Ron Finley, his voice hoarse from shouting. "Their kids upset a few ASU wrestlers, which really helped give us our big lead."

All 10 Duck wrestlers are still

alive, with seven in the championship finals and three in the consolation finals. OSU and ASU each have five finalists.

The top two place winners in each weight class are eligible for the nationals and there are 10 wild card berths.

"I'm really pleased, we did very well in just about every weight class," Finley said. "I figured it would take at least seven wrestlers in the finals to win the tournament, and we seem to be in a pretty good position."

"They're looking very good and seem to be in an insurmountable position," said University of Arizona coach Bill Nelson, after he congratulated Finley on the tournament win. "You guys got it," he told Finley.

Oregon's championship finalists are Mike Erb (118), Cliff Porter (134), Bill Nugent (142), Rick O'Shea (158), Jeff Stueb-

ing (167), Ryan Kelly (190) and Dan Cook (Heavyweight).

Consolation finalists are Miles Hancock (126), Barry Boyles (150) and Mike Miller (177).

But on the way to the finals, the Ducks had some tough times.

Bill Nugent managed to squeeze by ASU's Joe Solorio in overtime. The two went 10-10 in regulation, but Nugent outscored the Sun Devil star 3-0 during the overtime period.

Stuebing easily downed his semifinal opponent Greg Tanner of Arizona, 21-1, to advance to the finals, while Dan Cook pinned Gary Yarco 1:28 into the first period.

"Cook is really fired up and will be ready for (ASU's) Dan Severn, who is ranked second in the nation," said Finley. "Cook has done wonders this year, and even though Severn is extremely tough, I wouldn't count him out."

Cook lost to Severn by one point when ASU met the Ducks in Mac Court earlier this season.

Erb scored a big win in his weight class, overpowering Washington State's Brian Higa, 10-6, to advance to the finals.

Two Duck wrestlers forced their opponents out through disqualification. O'Shea won as his opponent was cited for unnecessary roughness and stalling, while Kelly's opponent was disqualified for stalling.

"Erb and O'Shea both did an outstanding job tonight," said

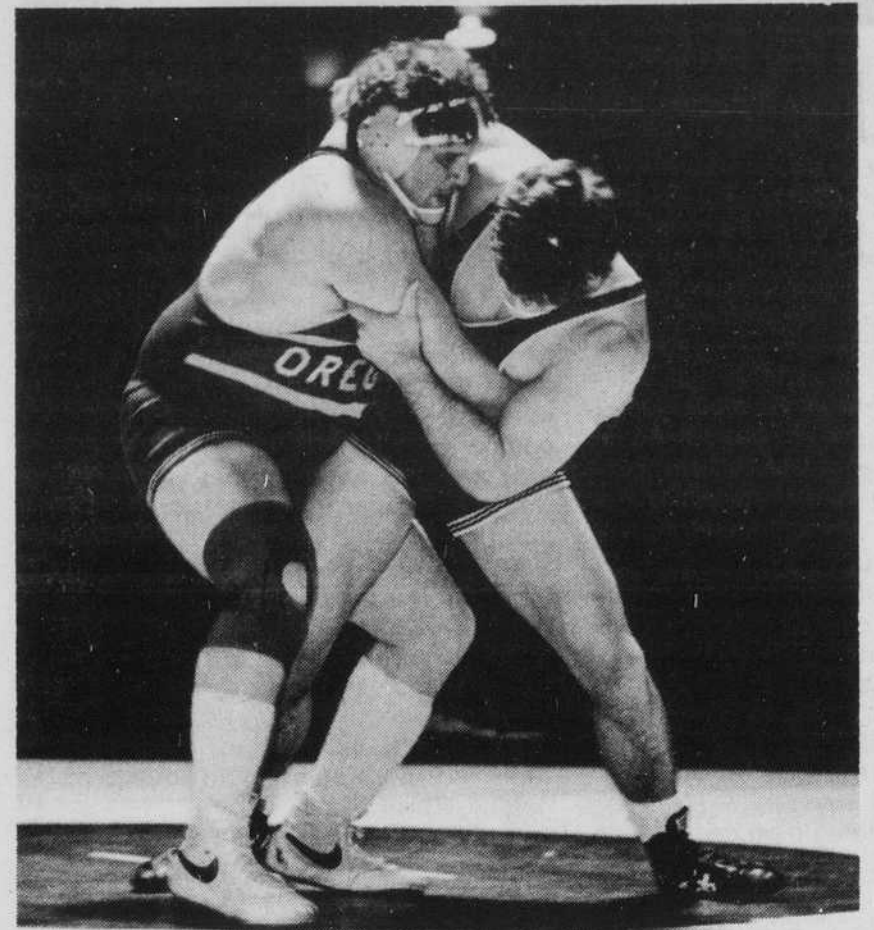


Photo by David W. Zahn

Oregon's Dan Cook lost to Arizona State's Dan Severn in this match two weeks ago. Now he meets Severn again in the Pac-10 finals.

Finley. "O'Shea was extremely tough, beating a senior and pushing him around in the process."

In the consolation bracket, Hancock decisioned Stanford's Tim Daniels, 16-12; Boyles pinned Willie Dillon of WSU, 1:01; and Miller decisioned the Cougars' Tim Paul, 17-10 to advance to the finals.

"We are very loose, not tight

at all," Finley said. "And I expect us to be ready for tomorrow night."

"We've got a big lead, but we're really going to have to come through in the finals if we're going to take this thing."

Competition will resume today at 6:30 p.m. at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis.

Team scores: Oregon 77½, ASU 59½, OSU 59, WSU 23½, Arizona 23, Stanford 3

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Cagers split L.A. games

Oregon's men's basketball team kept its tenuous hopes for a winning season alive with a 81-78 win over USC Saturday, following a Friday night 98-75 loss to UCLA.

The Ducks, now 12-13 this season and 5-11 in the Pacific-10 Conference, have two more games remaining, both in McArthur Court. One of the opponents will be fifth-ranked Arizona State University.

The final results of the Los Angeles games were a carbon copy of what transpired a month ago in Eugene. Although the Ducks have beaten USC in L.A. the last two seasons, it is the first time they've swept the Trojans in a season since the Greg Ballard year of 1976-77.

Oregon had control of most of the USC game, but still needed some timely help near the finish. With 2:34 remaining and Oregon up 75-74, the Ducks began a delay offense and ran the clock down to 1:25. Fred Cofield was fouled, but missed the one-and-one. After calling a timeout, USC came down the court and Barry Brooks missed a 20-footer with 58 seconds left.

Moments later, John Grieg pushed in a shot to give Oregon a 77-74 lead.

USC's James McDonald scored with 28 seconds to go, and Cofield was fouled again. Once more he missed the first one-and-one, but Ron Burns swatted the ball back to him. The Oregon guard was fouled again, and this time sank both shots.

The Ducks shot .571 from the floor. John Grieg led Oregon with 22 points, followed by Cofield (12) and Felton Sealey (10). Mike Clark pulled down 10 rebounds.

Most of Friday's UCLA game gave no indication of what would occur the next night. Oregon fell behind by 20 points at halftime, and it was all downhill from there.

The Ducks managed to scratch their way down to a 12-point deficit with seven minutes left. But the Bruins, who shot 61 percent from the floor, were able to hold off the charge to annex their fourth straight win over Oregon.

The Ducks' two seniors, Clark and Sealey, scored 20 and 18 points, respectively. Cofield added 14 points and Grieg 11.



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