

# Grapplers slip past Washington State

By Capi Lynn  
Of the Emerald

After losing three straight dual matches, Oregon's wrestling team found itself victorious as it narrowly defeated Washington State University, 22-20, Monday night in McArthur Court.

The Ducks improved their dual record to 8-9, and the win made it 16 straight victories over the Cougars since 1970.

"This was a good win for us, and we needed it bad," Oregon coach Ron Finley said. "We had

some good efforts out there, and it was a definite improvement."

Although the Ducks recorded the win, the dual went down to the final two matches of the evening when Oregon was holding a precarious lead.

With the Ducks holding a 20-15 advantage, Oregon needed to stay away from any kind of Cougar big point scores (a pin or a technical fall) in the last two matches. The Ducks did that and more as 190-pounder James Terry got a draw in his match

and heavyweight Drew Smetana lost only by decision.

Terry's draw with WSU's Steve Porter proved to be the key match of the evening. The junior from Redmond broke his nose only 10 seconds into the first period, but finished the match to get the tie.

"Terry stayed in there and came from behind twice," Finley said of the draw, which put Oregon ahead, 22-17. "I was pleased with his team effort."

Terry fell behind 6-1 after the first period but battled back to within one after the second round. With the score at 6-5, Porter jumped out to score five straight points. With 1:01 remaining in the match, Terry scored a reversal, received two penalty points and scored a two-point near-fall to force the tie at 11-11.

"Basically I didn't want to lose," said Terry of his comeback. "I knew if I lost, we would lose the dual."

In the final match of the night, WSU's Wendell Ellis defeated Oregon's Drew Smetana, 8-2. This heavyweight bout matched the 345-pound Ellis against 285-pound Smetana, nicknamed "the giant" by Finley.

"Drew wrestled real smart and kept the score down," said Finley of the junior's second appearance on the wrestling mat for the Ducks.

Oregon opened the match with a 9-0 lead after the first two bouts. Roberto Pelayo won by forfeit at 118 pounds, while Glenn Jarrett decisioned the Cougars' Eric Powers, 4-3, in the 126-pound weight class.

"Glenn did a great job out there," said Finley of his freshman grappler, who extended his season record to 20-14.

Jarrett and Powers were at a 2-2 standoff after the opening period. Then Jarrett took control in the second round when he scored a two-point near-fall for

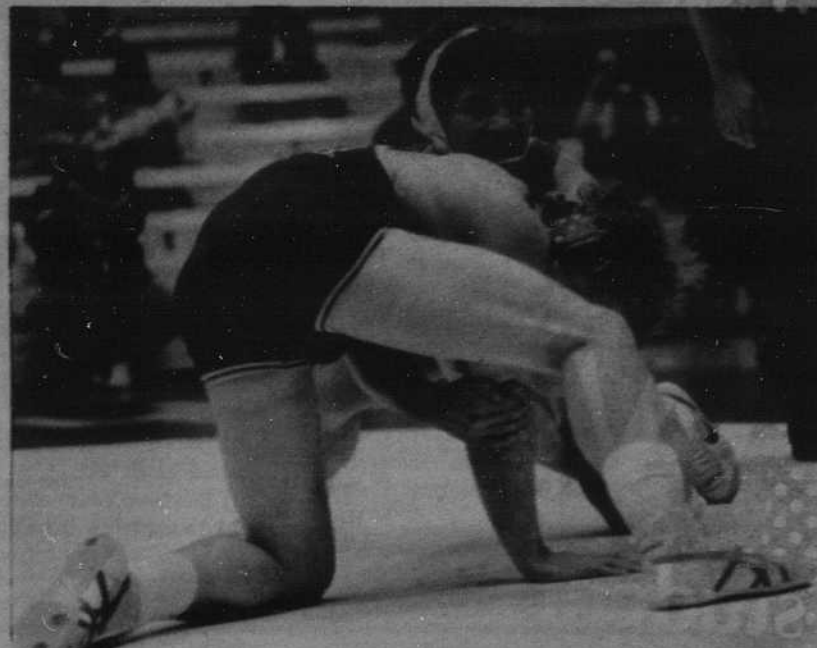


Photo by Karen Stallwood

Oregon's Rick O'Shea (top) has Washington State University's Steve Westbrook in firm control. O'Shea decisioned Westbrook in Oregon's victory over WSU at McArthur Court Monday night.

a 4-2 advantage. In the final period, Powers scored one point for riding time, but it wasn't enough to surpass Jarrett.

The next two individual matches went to the Cougars. WSU 134-pounder Ted Parker pinned the Ducks' Greg Kimura, and Bobby Freund decisioned Oregon's Vince Hochanadel, 10-4, at 142 pounds. The Cougars and the Ducks were tied at nine apiece with six matches left on the agenda.

At 150 pounds, the Cougars' Mike Dotson scored a technical fall in the second round over Oregon's Larry Morene. WSU took the lead for the first time at 15-9.

But the Ducks bounced right back as 158-pounder Rick O'Shea whipped WSU's Steve Westbrook, 18-8. O'Shea elevated his season record to 22-3-1, and collected his 85th career victory. The win places O'Shea fourth on the Oregon's all-time career victory list.

Keith Beutler won the 167-pound bout to give the

Ducks a 17-15 lead over the Cougars. Beutler decisioned Gary Niklason, 13-5 and improved his overall record to 13-11 this season.

"Keith did a darn good job beating a dangerous wrestler," Finley said. "Niklason likes to throw wrestlers, and Keith didn't let him get any on him."

"I felt pretty good tonight and I wasn't tired," said Beutler, who has been battling the flu. "I was watching for his head and arm, and I concentrated more on the leg attack."

At 177 pounds, the Ducks' Mike Harter decisioned Cougar Mike Sudduth, 8-4, to increase Oregon's lead to 20-15 with only two matches remaining. Harter's win improved his season record to 32-7-1 and tied him with Don Brown for fifth on the single-season victory list. The junior needs only five more wins to tie Scott Bliss' record of 37 wins in a season.

The Ducks travel to Ashland to face Southern Oregon State College Saturday.

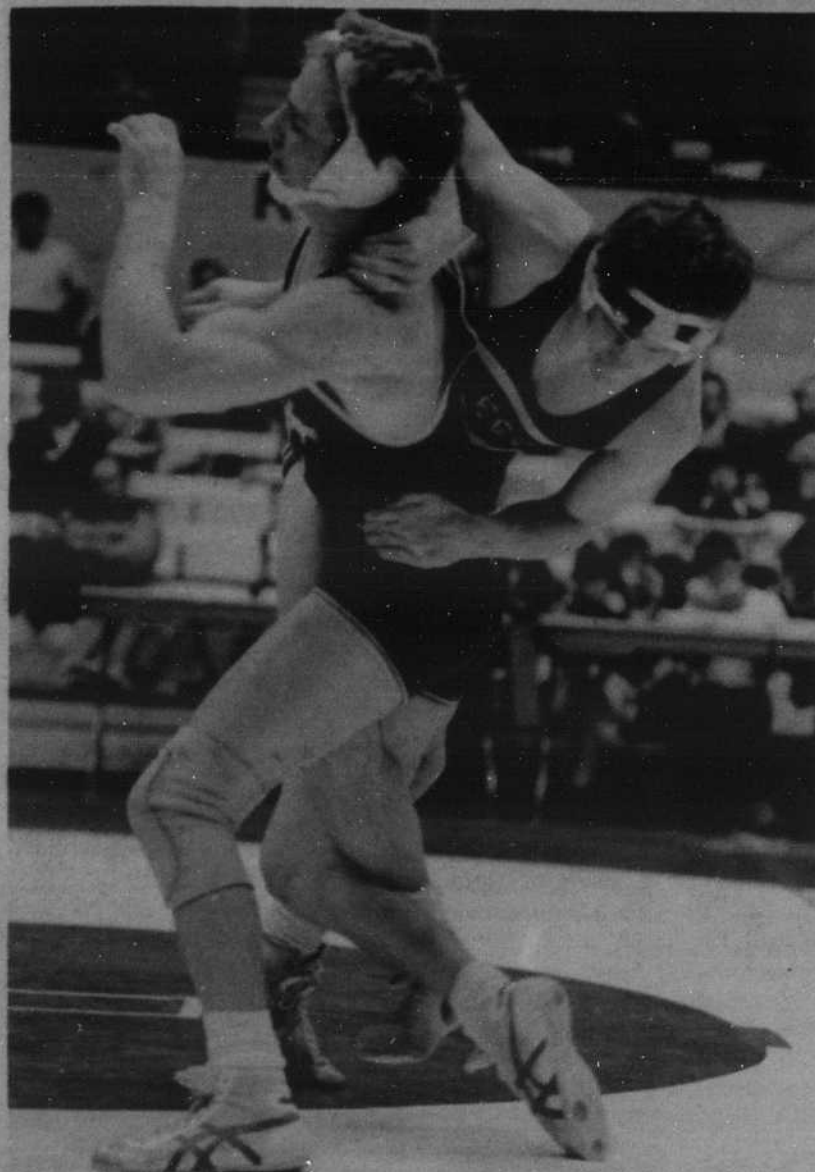


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Oregon's Vince Hochanadel (right) goes for the takedown against Washington State's Bobby Freund.



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