

Gymnasts get ninth-straight win

By Dean Connor
Of the Emerald

The Oregon gymnastics team continued its winning ways Saturday by scoring a team scoring record of 177.75 to defeat Boise State University (171.95) and Spokane Community College (160.35) in a non-conference tri-meet in Gerlinger Annex.

With the two victories the Ducks are now 16-7 and a step closer to their goal to be one of the six teams who qualify for the NCAA Western Regionals in April. Heading into Saturday's meet Oregon was unofficially in seventh place in team scoring average (174.00) behind both Boise State and the University of California.

"This was our best meet of the season," Oregon coach Ed Boyd said. "Not only did we defeat Boise State whom we lost to earlier in the season, but we raised our team scoring average."

For the second time in less than a week the Ducks broke their own team scoring record and added another record in the uneven bars with a score of 44.20. Oregon looked nearly unbeatable as they took three out of four events from BSU and swept all four from SCC. Oregon had five gymnasts with all-around scores above 34.45.

Freshman Nicky Eden led the way for the Ducks as she won each of the four events and took first in the all-around with a score of 37.55. Eden, who was hobbled with a sprained ankle, set a personal high for the year in the uneven bars, scoring a 9.45. She missed breaking her high all-around score this season by one-tenth of a point.

Team captain Denise Garcia came through with her finest performance of the season as she scored a 35.50 and took second in the all-around.

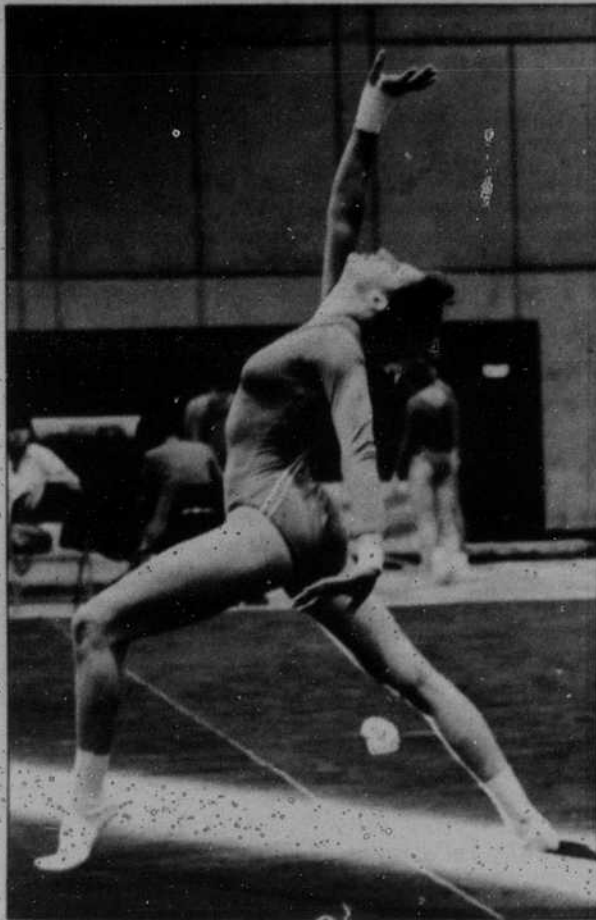


Photo by Shu-Shing

Team captain Denise Garcia helped the Ducks to their ninth-straight victory Saturday as she scored a 35.50 in the all-around competition.

Oregon swimmers finish third

By Jeff Lutzky
Of the Emerald

Things turned out pretty much as expected for the Ducks at the NorPac Conference swimming championships in Portland, as Oregon finished third behind the University of California and the University of Washington.

Nationally-ranked Cal finished with 1,858 points, followed by Washington with 1,341 and Oregon with 941.

Washington State University finished in fourth with 793, followed by Oregon State University in fifth with 600. San Jose State University had 594 points and Fresno State University finished last with 552 points.

Even with the Ducks third-place showing, coach Dan Cole wasn't totally pleased.

"Some people didn't do as well as we had hoped," Cole said. "We didn't get anyone in to the NCAA's."

But despite this disappointment, the team did reasonably well.

"Our team goal was realized by placing third in the NorPac's," Cole said. "The fact that nobody made the NCAA's put a damper on things, but it still was a successful season."

The meet started off well for the Ducks as they trailed Washington 410-376 for second

place after the first day. Cal was well in front with 746 after the first day.

The Duck's day was highlighted by three events — the 500-yard freestyle, one-meter diving, and the 800-yard freestyle relay.

In the 500-yard freestyle, two Ducks finished among the top four, as junior Gwen Roedel placed third with a time of 4:58.01 and senior Babette Brundage placed fourth with a time of 5:00.59.

In the diving competition, junior Lori Van Meter finished in fourth with 364.2 points, while freshman Beth Newell finished fifth with a score of 329.2.

In the 800-freestyle relay, the team of Brundage, Roedel, and sophomores GeeGee Wharton and Patricia Lorys lowered their own record for the third time this year, and the second time in a week, from 7:47.29 to 7:41.73, good for third place.

On Friday Berkeley and Washington started to pull away from the field as the Bears moved out to nearly a 500-point lead over the Huskies 1377-890. Oregon was in third with 695.

For the Ducks, there were still highlights on the day.

The 200-yard freestyle relay team of Wharton, sophomore Kristen Read, and freshmen Heather Hockett and Linda

Mason finished two seconds behind Cal with a 1:38.03 for second place.

In the 400-yard individual medley Brundage finished in fifth with a 4:33.48, and in three-meter diving, Van Meter finished in fourth with 351.55 points.

On Saturday Cal put the finishing touches to the NorPac championship, while the Ducks settled for third.

The main highlight on the day for the Ducks was a fourth place finish by Roedel in the 1650-yard freestyle with a time of 17:04.48, followed by teammate Brundage with a 17:15.16.

Before the meet, Cole had stated that he thought Brundage and Roedel would have a chance at qualifying for the NCAA's along with the 200-yard freestyle relay team, but things did not work out that way.

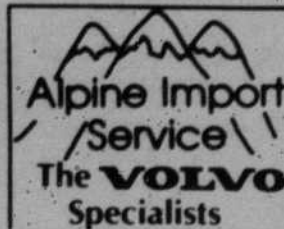
"Nobody was really close enough to the times needed to talk about," Cole said. "I haven't figured out yet what the problem was."

Winning the meet itself was something that never entered the Duck's minds seriously though.

Cal came in ranked in the top 10 in the country, and Washington had already beaten the Ducks twice this year.

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