

Sports

Wrestlers kick off weekend with BYU

By Ron Gullberg
Of the Emerald

After nearly two weeks of rest, the Oregon wrestling team returns to the mat at home tonight and Friday, then travels to Ashland Saturday for a 7:30 p.m. dual with Southern Oregon State College.

"This will be a tough weekend, but the break's been good for us," said Oregon coach Ron Finley. "It gave us a chance to get down to some serious practice and heavy conditioning."

Oregon is 7-9 in duals and 3-3 in the Pacific-10 Conference. The team last saw action Jan. 24 in the Oregon Wrestling Classic at Portland, where the Ducks placed 10th out of 17 teams.

At tonight's 7:30 p.m. match, the Ducks hope to raise their 5-8 series record with Brigham Young University and avenge a 24-19 loss last year in Provo.

The Cougars, 8-4 overall, carry two nationally ranked wrestlers in heavyweight Jim Nielsen (ranked third) and Chris

Brown at 118 pounds (ranked seventh).

Finley says the key to the Ducks' success will be at the lower weights.

"Roberto Pelayo needs to get us a good start against Brown at 118. I think we have to win that first match in order to win the meet."

Friday, Utah State University comes to town for a 7:30 p.m. Pac-10 dual, boasting an impressive 7-1 record and four top-ranked wrestlers.

The Aggies placed third in their 17-team tournament last weekend, behind Wyoming and Brigham Young. Chris Hansen is ranked 15th at 126, followed by David Zuniga (134), 20th; Scott Cook (150), 17th; and Kurt Knechtel (190), 11th.

Oregon leads the Utah State series 4-3, but hopes to overcome three straight losses to the Aggies, including a 41-6 drubbing last year in Logan.

In Friday's key match-ups, Oregon's Shon Lewis, ranked 13th, will counter Zuniga at

134, while James Hawthorne faces Hansen at 126.

"We have to win the first three matches to beat them," Finley said. "Our lower weights will make or break us. We have to go with where most of our strength is."

Southern Oregon is 8-1 and no stranger to the Ducks, having competed in the Oregon Invitational Dec. 21. The Red Raiders' Paul Dodson is the top-ranked 190-pounder in the NAIA, flashing a 21-2 record.

The Ducks own an impressive 13-4-1 over SOSC, but, again, look to halt a three-meet losing streak.

"Southern Oregon is probably the toughest college (wrestling) team in the state. It should be an interesting meet Saturday," Finley said.

The 158-pound and heavyweight positions still leave Finley pondering. James Knott is expected to replace injured Cam Strahm at heavyweight, and 158 is still a question mark while Finley

considers Andre Patay, a freshman from Trondheim, Norway, and Leonard Anderson, a sophomore from Springfield, Mass.

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Duck women face Arizona, ASU; seek instrumental road victories

By Dennis Fernandes
Of the Emerald

There is one more item on Oregon's agenda, and that is to win on the road.

The Ducks, winners of five of their last six games, will attempt to overcome that problem when they face the University of Arizona tonight in Tucson, a team they defeated at McArthur Court earlier this season, 83-63.

To date, Oregon has won only one of four Pacific-10 Conference women's basketball games away from Eugene, and they know winning on the road will be instrumental in maintaining their third-place standing at 6-3 (14-5 overall).

"We have to have the same type of concentration and effort as we do at home. Even though we beat these teams here, we have to show we can do it there," said Oregon coach Elwin Heiny.

The Ducks scored the first 12 points of last month's game between the two teams. Lauri Landerholm and Gabi Neumann each finished with 20 points, and Kris Glidden came off the bench to contribute 14 points and nine rebounds. Wildcat guard Lava Acosta led all scorers with 22 points.

On that night, the Duck

defense on Arizona's ace center, Dana Patterson, was tight early on, but it did not prevent her from tallying 19 points and eight rebounds. She goes into tonight's counter averaging 17.2 points and 9.8 rebounds a game, and Oregon's defense will once again be packed around the 6-foot-3 center.

"I was watching the tapes from before, and her agility presented some problems for our post players," Heiny said.

Arizona is currently entrenched at ninth place in the Pac-10 at 2-7 (7-11 overall), but they beat rival Arizona State University, 72-55, last Saturday.

This week's news from the Duck camp offers both good and bad news. Glidden, the junior from Klamath Falls, was honored as the Pac-10 co-player of the week along with Lisa Oriard of the University of Washington.

The reserve forward had career bests against University of California Friday with 20 points and 14 rebounds, and then set a new rebounding mark the next night against Stanford University with 18 boards to go along with 12 points.

The bad news is regarding the troublesome knees of starting guard Carol Drouet. She went down in the latter half of the Stanford game after apparent cartilage damage to her right knee. Drouet did make the trip to Arizona, but her playing status is unknown.

If Drouet's condition persists, the playmaking duties will be handed over to freshman Jacquie Semeniuk, who has started eight games at the off-guard position. She is third on the team in assists (62) and averages 4.7 points and 4.2 rebounds a game.

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