

BYU Cougars topple injury-plagued grapplers

By Ron Gullberg
Of the Emerald

The Oregon wrestling team had Brigham Young University nibbling, biting, and even on the line, but never hooked, as the Cougars reversed an early 12-0 deficit and beat the Ducks 26-17 Thursday night at Mac Court.

The Ducks looked insurmountable, jumping out to an early 12-0 lead after winning the first three matches. But the Cougars reeled off a string of five-straight wins to go up 20-14, then relied on the strength of third-ranked heavyweight Jim Nielsen to win.

The Ducks countered the 19-2 Nielsen with freshman James Knott, who had never wrestled collegiately before.

Nielsen pinned Knott at the 2:21 mark, but Oregon head coach Ron Finley was impressed by his rookie.

"That was Knott's first time out in college. I thought he did well; he got out of a couple of nice holds," said Finley. "I just didn't want him to get hurt."

Oregon was still in it during the middle weights, but instead of two three-point losses, BYU was awarded two six-point wins when Vince Hohanadel was

pinned at the 6:26 mark by Dean Mitchell, and Todd Schaff gave up a technical fall to John Kohls at 3:09. A possible 12-12 score quickly turned to 18-12.

Roberto Pelayo, who increased his record to 19-9-1, started the Ducks' early scoring run by winning his 118-pound match over Mark Jones, a fill in for the Cougars' injured nationally-ranked starter Chris Brown, 15-3.

"I was expecting to wrestle Brown (who is sidelined with a rib injury), so I got pretty pumped-up," said Pelayo. "At weigh-in I found out I wouldn't meet him, but I knew we needed a win to get the team fired-up. A win in the first match gets everybody started."

"I'm very pleased with Roberto," said Finley who noted before the meet that the Ducks had to win the first match to have a shot at the Cougars.

Oregon's James Hawthorne stepped-in at 126 and won a 19-9 decision over John McIlmoil. Hawthorne was a pleasant surprise after filling in for Shon Lewis, who moved to the 134-pound position.

"Hawthorne's getting better all the time," said Finley. "He's moving in and establishing himself well."

Lewis completed the lower-weight assault by out-muscling Don Jenkins 10-3. It was a tough test for Lewis, who normally competes at 126 and is ranked tenth at that position.

"Coach wanted me to wrestle at 34 tonight to prepare for the Pac-10's (conference championships March 7-8 in Corvallis)," said Lewis. "It's quite a difference going up just one weight. The guys are definitely stronger a weight up, but I knew I was going to win; it was a head trip thing - I just had to do it."

After the Cougars' sweep of the middle weights, the Ducks still had a chance to win the meet with veterans Dan Martin (177) and Chuck Kearney (190) still up.

Martin, 13-10-1, faced Craig Bogard, who carried a similar record at 13-8-1. The match echoed the wrestler's records, ending in an exciting 1-1 draw.

Both wrestlers tested each other in the first round which ended 0-0.

Martin escaped in the second round at 1:51 to go up 1-0. But, at 1:30 in the final period Bogard escaped to tie the score.

Kearney, who normally wrestles at 167-pounds moved up to the 190-pound category

because Joe Rizzone fell ill the day of the meet, and "mainly because he (Kearney) couldn't quite make weight today," said Finley.

"We wrestled well tonight; our guys are getting better

every time," said Finley of his injury-depleted and young crew. "We're learning a lot and improving, but we couldn't keep off our backs. We got pinned in the middle weights and that hurts."

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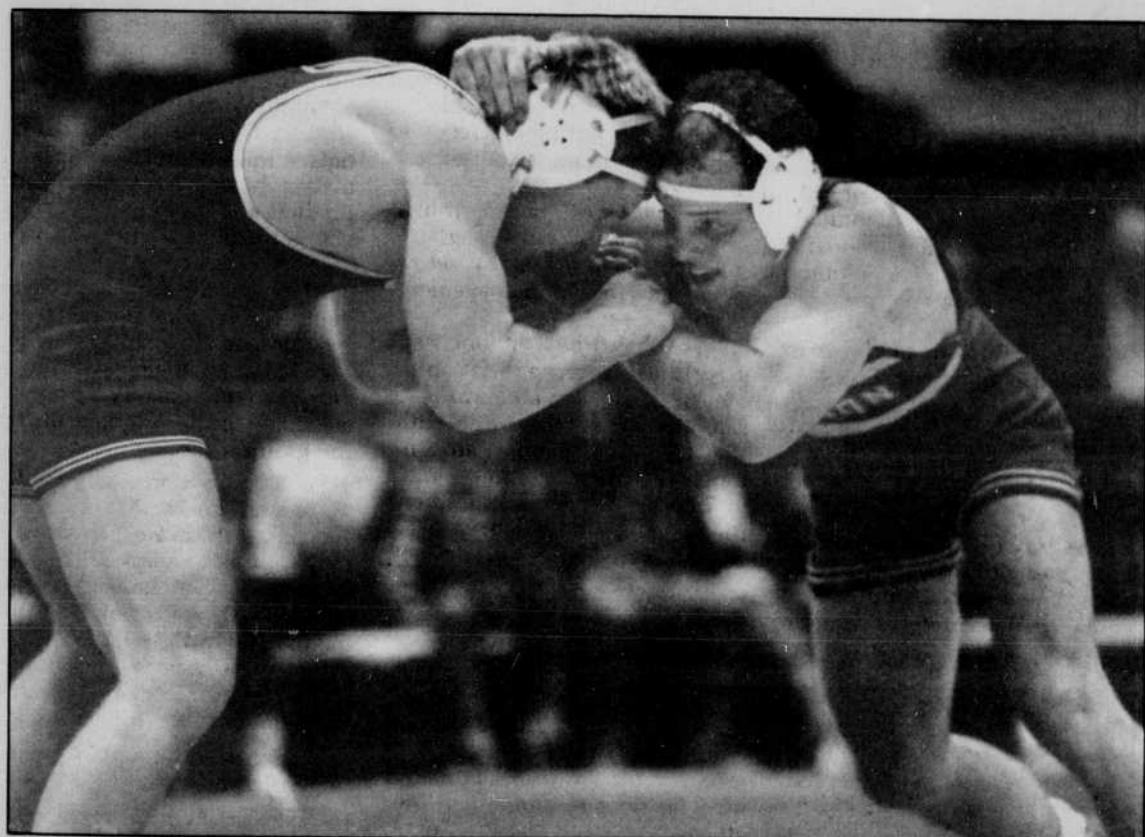


Photo by Tim Jones

Oregon's Chuck Kearney takes a strong hold on Brigham Young's Mark Willis in the 190-pound bout. Kearney won the match 5-2, but the Ducks lost the dual 26-17.

Ducks succumb to Arizona; still search for first Pac-10 road win

By Capi Lynn
Of the Emerald

Once again the Oregon men's basketball team lacked the necessary ingredients to win on the road. While the game was closer than the score indicated, the University of Arizona Wildcats dealt the Ducks a tough 68-53 Pacific-10 Conference loss in Tucson Thursday night.

The defeat evened Oregon's conference record to 6-6 (6-0 at home in McArthur Court and 0-6 on the road).

Oregon coach Don Monson noted after the game his team

played good at times, but poor at other times.

"We had a lot of misrebounds and casual passes," Monson said. "We also missed defensive assignments from the very first possession."

Arizona's Anthony Cook proved to be a big factor in the game with his presence inside "intimidating" the Ducks' center Sven Meyer, Monson said.

"We did what we had to in the first half... we got it in to Meyer but he was too soft."

The Wildcats got off on the right track from the very beginning, hitting nine of 13 field goals to establish an early 16-8 advantage before their home crowd of 12,854 in the McKale Center.

But the Ducks scraped their way back into the game, scoring seven of nine points at one stretch near the end of the first half to pull within four, 19-15. Guard Anthony Taylor kept Oregon in it, scoring nine of Ducks' first 11 points.

The Ducks stayed close, cut-

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