

Professionals say 'grrr' to Oregon's wrestling cutbacks

By Dennis Fernandes
Of the Emerald

Two separate factions of the same sport will come together as friends tonight.

Oregon's wrestling team will be given a boost by the sensationalized version of its sport, professional wrestling, when "Super Clash Extravaganza" struts its stuff beginning at 8 p.m. at McArthur Court. All proceeds will be donated to the Ducks' wrestling program.

The event, apparently the largest wrestling card ever held in Eugene, boasts an amazing 22-participant showcase, including a world championship bout between "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka and "The Living Legend" Larry Zbyszko. There are two more world championship matches and at least eight other cards on tap.

The women's champion, Sheri Martel, will be there, as will local favorites such as the Assassin, Rip Oliver and Ricky Santana. Russ Francis, former Oregon football great and cur-

rent tight end with the San Francisco 49ers, will referee the matches.

Since the Ducks fell upon financially hard times a few years ago, coach Ron Finley and assistant coach Dean Dixon

have been scrambling for the ultimate fundraiser. They've held Reno Nights and golf tournaments. Next year they will probably sell football programs.

They may have finally hit upon a doozy. In February,

Finley got together with promoter Vern Gagne and two other local promoters, Elton and Don Owen, and together they came up with tonight's showcase. "They (the promoters) have done a lot of work

on it, and they're not getting anything out of it," Dixon pointed out.

One may find it ironic that collegiate and professional wrestling, at opposite ends of the spectrum, are willing to give each other a hand.

"I don't find it ironic at all," said Elton Owen. "I've been donating money to the wrestling program for years. They (the wrestlers) love to help the kids out."

It's especially admirable in that the Owen brothers, mainstays on the Northwest pro wrestling circuit, are contributing their efforts towards this cause, when they've fallen upon hard times themselves.

"I don't want to take a cent on it," stressed Don Owen. "I do it because I love wrestling, and because Ron has a good program there."

Tickets are still available at the Mac Court ticket office. Prices are \$5 for students, \$9 for general admission and \$12 for reserved seating.

Local painter lends a brush to Ducks

By Dennis Fernandes
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When Carolyn Nuessle was a young girl, she wanted to run track.

Luckily, her high school started a girl's track program. "I could run fast. One day when we were running, a girl fell and cut her knee," she recalled. "Her father called and said it was too rough for girls, so the program was cut."

It wasn't because of the fear for injury, and Nuessle knew it. "Everyone knew there was not enough money," she said.

That's why the proceeds from her portrait of the Pengra Bridge, located outside of Jasper, are going towards the Oregon women's track and field program.

The print, available at various art galleries

and the Smith Family Bookstore, costs \$20. Nuessle retains \$5 of it to cover her printing costs, and the remainder goes to the track fund.

In other fundraisers, today is the last day to register for the Oregon Spring Tennis Championships May 8-10.

There are brackets for singles, doubles and mixed doubles. Matches begin at 2 p.m. Saturday at the 15th Street courts. Entry fees are \$12 for singles and \$8 each for doubles, and are due by 5 p.m. at the men's tennis office in McArthur Court.

A junior tournament is scheduled for May 15-17, and entries are due next Friday, May 8.

Proceeds from both events will go to Oregon's men's tennis program.

Ducks look for NCAA qualifiers

By David Scott
Of the Emerald

Big bullies do what they please.

Such will be the case tomorrow when the Oregon women step onto the track at Hayward Field to host the Oregon Invitational.

The little guys — Simon Fraser University, Western Oregon State, Idaho State University and other schools — come to town to do a little teasing. After three weeks of rigorous team competition, the Ducks have the luxury of concentrating on individual performances.

"It's a chance for people to compete without a team score," said Oregon coach Tom Heinonen, whose squad rolled over Brigham Young University and University of California last week. "We can move people to events that will start preparing them for the Pac-10 meet."

Oregon, which has already qualified 19 athletes for the Pac-10 meet, has an additional goal in mind.

"Clearly we're looking for more NCAA qualifiers," Heinonen said. Oregon only has three at the moment, but Yvette Brown and Jill Smith are on the fringe of making national meet.

Brown's discus throw (165-10) last week missed the NCAA mark by a scant three inches, and Smith, whose lifetime best in the javelin (171-9) is farther than the NCAA standard, has been getting ever closer each week.

Distance runner Annette Hand couldn't have come much closer to the collegiate 3,000-meter championships than she did last Saturday. Hand, who's already qualified for the NCAA 5,000, hopes to avenge her 9:25.34 clocking of a week ago. It missed the magic time (9:25) by less than a half-second.

Heinonen is optimistic about her chances. "The conditions could be a whole lot better, as in cooler and not so windy," he said.

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Photo by John Giustina

Shotputter and javelin thrower Yvette Brown needs just three inches more than her personal best in the javelin throw this season to qualify for the NCAA meet.

Offense gaping as Ducks head into final scrimmage

By Dennis Fernandes
Of the Emerald

One team is on the run, while the other is trying to stop it.

That's the way it will be Saturday, when Oregon football's offense and defense climax four weeks of spring drills with a final scrimmage.

Duck football will sport a different look this fall. Gone of course is Chris Miller, who is heading for his heyday in the National Football League with the Atlanta Falcons as of Tuesday.

Coach Rich Brooks, searching for answers to defensive problems which have plagued his squad the last three seasons, has scrapped the 4-3 "flex" defense in favor of a 3-4, featuring three down linemen.

The experiment on defense appears to have good results thus far, as Rollin Putzier, Matt Brock, Devin Fitzpatrick and a core of linebackers have responded well to the transition. "We're much further ahead defensively than I would have anticipated," Brooks said. "We knew we had to make a lot of changes — we've been really poor there the past two years."

But now it's the offense that's giving the Oregon coaching staff headaches. The biggest question, of course, is at quarterback, where someone is going to have to fill the shoes of the best quarterback to ever wear a green and gold uniform. Last season's backup, Pete Nelson, appeared to be the front-runner as heir apparent at last season's conclusion. Now, however, redshirt freshman Bill Musgrave has moved into the picture, and it is doubtful that a clearcut starter will

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