

## Sports

### Duck Grapplers place in Las Vegas Invitational

By Kevin Allen  
Emerald Contributor

On Friday and Saturday, the Oregon wrestling team placed 19th in one of the most prestigious invitationals in the nation.

The Las Vegas Invitational in Nevada featured some of the nation's top teams, including Pacific-10 Conference power Arizona State, National Collegiate Athletic Association defending champion Iowa State, and traditional powerhouse Iowa.

Arizona State ran away with the championship scoring 141 points, Oklahoma State was a distant second with 128 1/2 points and Oklahoma was third with 102 1/2 points. The Ducks, led by George Johnston and Chuck Kearney, scored 28 points in their top-20 finish.

Kearney, in the 177 pound weight class, placed fifth, and Johnston placed sixth in the 150 pound class for the tournament. Danny White (167 pound class), and Kurt Strahm (190 pound class), advanced in the consolation round.

If the Las Vegas Invitational will shape the national rankings as expected, then Big Ten Conference teams will have no trouble finding themselves in print. The Conference placed six teams in the top 20, led by Michigan with 92 1/2 in fourth, Wisconsin with 86 1/4 points in fifth and Iowa with 84 1/2 points in sixth.

Oregon coach Ron Finley said the Ducks battled pretty well, and he especially was pleased with the performance of the younger wrestlers on the team. While Finley had hoped for a top-15 finish for the Oregon team, overall he was pleased with how the grapplers finished.

The Ducks lost James Hawthorne (126 pound class) to a knee injury on Friday. It is unknown how serious of an injury it is, but it is not believed he will miss more than a couple of weeks, if anything. Hawthorne, who is undefeated in three dual meets this year, had won his first meet in Las Vegas, tied his second, and lost his third meet on criteria before being withdrawn.

Oregon plays host to Humboldt State, Saturday at 2 p.m. at McArthur Court, in its final meet before Christmas.

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