

Bakersfield hands Duck wrestlers first loss of the season

By Mike Maloney
Emerald Contributor

The Oregon wrestling team suffered its first loss of the season Monday night, falling to Cal State-Bakersfield by a score of 22-11.

Until the Bakersfield match, the Ducks had boasted an unbeaten streak in McArthur Court that spanned the past two seasons.

The defeat came on the night Ron Finley was honored for 20 years of service as Oregon's head wrestling coach.

"I'm disappointed that we didn't get the win," Finley said. "We were really in the match until the end."

Bakersfield, the NCAA's 17th-ranked team, jumped out to a 16-0 lead over the Ducks by winning the first five matches.

Freshman Rob Cayton, wrestling in place of Pac-10 champion Dan Vidlak who was sidelined with a knee injury, lost to Bakersfield junior Pat Higa 15-7 at 118 pounds.

"Cayton did a very respectable job in his first varsity match," Finley said. "He kept it close."

The most exciting match of the night was at 126 pounds where Oregon freshman Jason Jones fell behind Bakersfield senior Mike Dallas 5-1 after two rounds, then tied it up 7-7 at the end of regulation. Dallas was awarded one point for riding time, finishing with an 8-7 victory.

Bakersfield then took the next three matches to open the largest margin of the evening.

Oregon wrestler Rob Stone was edged out by Bakersfield's Ahmed El-Sokkary at 134 pounds. In the 142-pound match, Oregon's Scott Glenn lost a 7-2 decision to Bakersfield's Steve Morris.

Finley cited the 142-pound match as the turning point in the contest.

"Glenn beat Morris for third place at last year's Pac-10's," Finley said. "That loss really hurt us."

Redshirt freshman Pat Craig was impressive in a losing effort against Bakersfield's Richard Bailey at 150 pounds. Bailey was an All-American last season but could manage no better than a 12-5 decision against Craig who outscored

him in the final round.

George Johnston gave Oregon its first win of the night, scoring a 6-2 victory over Bakersfield's Mike Olejnik in a 158-pound match. Johnston controlled from the beginning.

Pac-10 champion Eric Messner continued to turn the momentum in Oregon's favor by posting a 4-1 victory over Bakersfield's Brian Malavar at 167 pounds. Messner won the match in spite of a hand injury that sidelined him in the Duck's season opener.

"Messner jumped into the lineup earlier than we expected," Finley said. "He's willing to do whatever he has to for the team."

Oregon's best performance of the night was turned in by 177-pounder Curt Strahm, who scored an 18-3 technical fall over Bakersfield freshman Kevin Langley. The win pulled the Ducks within striking distance at 16-11.

Oregon's Joe Rissone lost a heartbreaker at 190 pounds, tying the match at 5-5 only to lose when Bakersfield's Steve Lawson was awarded one point for riding time.

Lawson was the national Greco-Roman open division champion during the off-season.

Bakersfield completed the 22-11 victory when heavy-weight Tom Osendorf defeated Oregon's Cam Strahm by a 3-2 score.

Cal State-Bakersfield head coach T.J. Kerr said the score was misleading.

"Oregon wasn't at full

strength and had to make a lot of lineup changes," Kerr said. "Both teams will be improved when it comes time for the Pac-10's."

Oregon is now 1-1, having posted a 32-18 victory at Portland State on November 10th. Bakersfield moved to 3-0.

The Duck's next match will be November 25th in McArthur Court against the Stanford.

Oldham nets Pac-10 honor

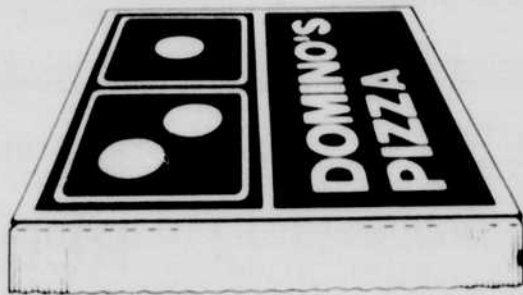
Oregon cornerback Chris Oldham was named this week as the Pacific 10 special teams Player of the Week.

California quarterback Troy Taylor was named the conference Offensive Player of the Week and Southern Cal defensive tackle Tim Ryan was named for the defensive honor.

Oldham, a senior from Sacramento, Calif., blocked a field goal attempt and re-

turned two kickoffs for 60 yards in the Ducks' 38-20 win at UCLA. Oldham leads the conference in kickoff returns with a 28.5-yard average and is tied for the conference lead in interceptions.

Taylor, a senior from Rancho Cordova, earned offensive honors for the second straight week by completing 25 of 33 passes for 368 yards and two touchdowns in Cal's 38-26 upset of Washington State.



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