

# Wrestlers face stiff competition in Las Vegas

By Lyle Crouse  
Emerald Contributor

The Oregon wrestlers may get a preview of the NCAA championships when they travel to Nevada for Friday's Las Vegas Invitational.

"Without any question, it's the toughest tournament outside the NCAAs," Oregon Coach Ron Finley said.

Finley said some of the nation's top teams will participate in the weekend tournament, including national champion Oklahoma State, Arizona State, Iowa State and Oklahoma. The Ducks will also get a look at several of their Pacific-10 Conference opponents.

"It's a battle," Finley said of the tournament. "It will definitely establish new rankings

when it's over."

It will be a particularly busy weekend for senior Curt Strahm in the 190-pound division as eight of the nation's top 10 grapplers in the 190-pound class will be in Las Vegas.

"This will be a big week for him — one of those weeks when you can get a lot of recognition," Oregon assistant coach Chuck Kearney said.

Strahm defeated the nation's 10th-ranked, 190-pound wrestler, Bucknell's Brian Burns, last weekend at the Mat Town Open in Lock Haven, Penn.

Scott Glenn, the Ducks' representative in the 142-pound class, looks to advance in the rankings after a big victory in the Mat Town Open against seventh-ranked Tim Tothka of Drexel.

While seniors Glenn, Rob Stone and Curt and Cam Strahm try to change the national rankings in Las Vegas, the younger Duck wrestlers will gain some valuable experience against some of the nation's best.

"That's basically what these early season tournaments are for: To see who's wrestling well and for a lot of development," Finley said.

"To go out and be successful here will give the guys confidence," Kearney added.

Dan Vidlak, Oregon's all-American in the 118-pound class, will miss the Las Vegas Invitational with a knee injury he sustained Nov. 9 in a meet against Portland State.

Finley said Vidlak may be ready for competition by Jan. 1, but said he saw no reason for Vidlak and Pat Craig (150 pounds), who has a sprained ankle, to wrestle at Las Vegas, although Craig could be ready to go.

"At this point in the season, there's no purpose to forcing them to wrestle," Finley said. "A wrestler like Dan Vidlak doesn't need to prove himself. He can do that at nationals."

Scott Seymour will fill in for Vidlak in the 118-pound bracket. Also competing in Las Vegas will be Jason Jones, 126-pound class; Stone, 134; Darren Gustafson, 158; Scott Kearney, 167; and freshman Jeff McCoy, 177.

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### BASKETBALL

Continued from Page 11

last weekend while guard Jill Sperry scored a career-high 20 points against Colorado State and averaged 14.5 tallies during the weekend.

The Lady Zags of Gonzaga will finish a busy week of games with the Sunday contest against Oregon.

Playing four games in six days before Sunday's meeting with the Ducks, Gonzaga fell at the hands of Colorado, 87-59, and Wisconsin, 80-77, in last weekend's Coors Classic.

They also hosted Central Washington on Tuesday, played at Montana Thursday night and will play at Montana State tonight.

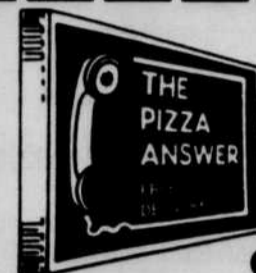


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