

SPORTS

Strahm brothers want Pac-10 title for Oregon

By Robert Weber
Emerald Sports Reporter

What has 39 victories this season, a top 10 ranking, weighs approximately 425 pounds, is finishing up two sociology majors and will be competing this weekend in the Pacific-10 Conference Championships?

No, it's not North Carolina State's former heavyweight Tab Thacker, it's the Strahm brothers, Cam and Curt, from Oregon.

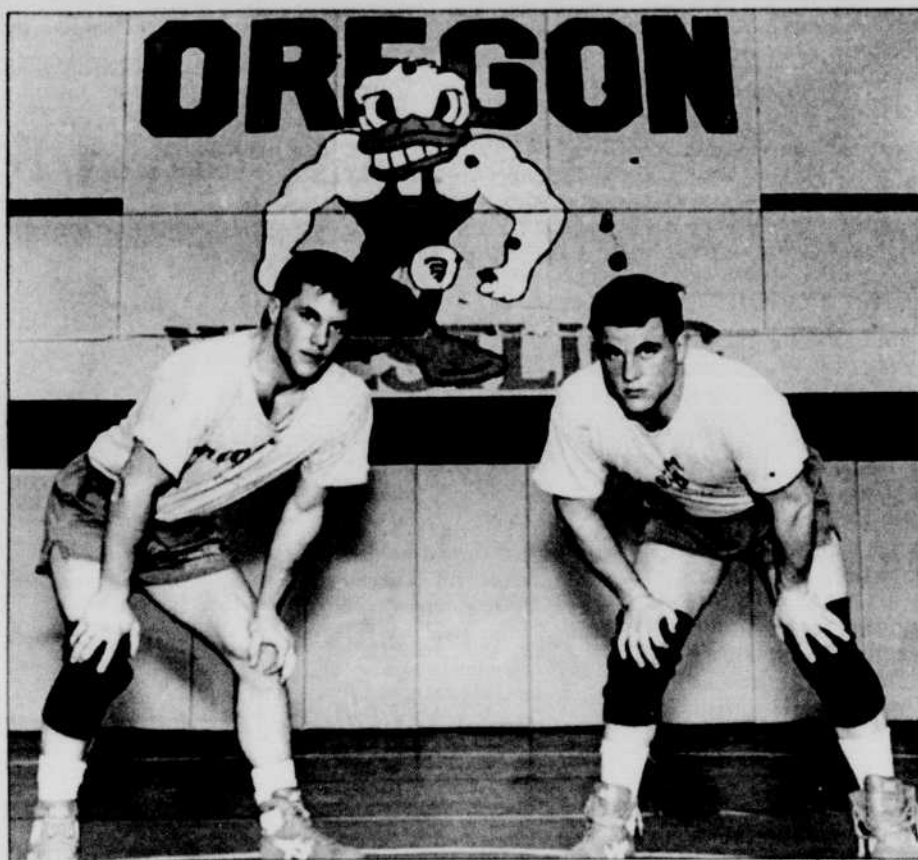
When Oregon invades Stanford and the Pac-10 Championships Saturday and Sunday, the Strahms, both seniors, will be looking to improve on their performance from a year ago, where both of them finished third and qualified for the NCAAs. It's something that Coach Ron Finley thinks is a definite possibility.

"Curt is a very capable wrestler," Finley said, "and he's beaten some outstanding wrestlers this season. If he meets the right people it can happen, although nothing's for sure."

"Cam dropped a couple of matches during the season and that's going to hurt him in the seedings at the Pac-10s," Finley said, "but if he wrestles to his capability, he can be right there and qualify for the NCAAs."

Curt, 25-1 on the season and ranked sixth nationally, competes in the 190-pound division while older brother Cam is the team's heavyweight with a 15-11-2 record.

Curt, who wrestled at 177 pounds last season, won two of his four matches and came up one match short of the all-American round at the NCAA meet. Cam lost his first and only match of the



Oregon's Curt (left) and Cam Strahm are hoping to help Oregon win the Pac-10 wrestling crown this weekend at Stanford.

tournament, but said the experience he gained last year will be a big boost if he qualifies this season.

"It was eye-opening," Cam said. "You see people there that you've only read about before. If I get back there

again, I'll be a little more prepared."

At 25-1, Curt has received a great deal of attention in Eugene and nationally, but he says only the Pac-10 and the NCAA meets matter to him.

"Twenty-five and one doesn't mean a

thing; it's the nationals that matter, and you qualify for the nationals at the Pac-10s," Curt said.

"At the start of the year, I wanted to be in the top eight nationally, but now I'd like to finish in the top five. If I wrestle like I can, I should be able to do that."

While Cam's record isn't as impressive as Curt's, it is due to extenuating circumstances.

"He's an undersized heavyweight," Curt said of his brother. "For what he's got, he's done a good job."

Cam said a major reason that he lost some matches early on was that he wasn't really concentrating.

"I just wasn't training as hard," Cam said, "and it showed in my conditioning."

One thing both Strahms agree on is what it will take for Oregon to win the Pac-10s this weekend.

"The key is our proven starters must win matches they're supposed to, and our unproven wrestlers have to surprise some people," Curt said.

Cam joined his brother in stressing the importance of team members such as Dan Vidlak (118 pounds) and Scott Glenn (134) winning matches against opponents they have beaten before.

One thing's for sure; if Arizona State is to claim its second consecutive title or Cal State-Bakersfield is to gain top honors in the conference, they will have to overcome the league's finest set of brothers.

And that's no small task.

Experienced Oregon golfers swing into action

By Robert Weber
Emerald Sports Reporter

One midterm down, only three left before the final exam. At least that's how Oregon women's golf Coach Rene Mack describes her team's spring season.

"We look at our tournaments as midterms, and the Pac-10s will be our final exam," Mack

said.

After a solid fall schedule, Mack's squad began its spring season last week with an 11th place finish at the Domino's Pizza/Chris Johnson Invitational tournament in Tucson, Ariz.

The third and final day of the tournament saw Oregon fire a school-record 299 led by Leigh Hornung's two-under-par 71. The team score was the fourth

best round of the day in the tournament and helped the Ducks move up two spots.

All five Duck players shot rounds in the 70s in the third round, good enough that Oregon had the luxury of dropping a 79 from its five scores.

Oregon's greatest strength is team depth, Mack said. Lynn Yonemoto, the squad's lone senior, and a highly talented

group of juniors lead a Duck team that is pressing for an NCAA bid this spring.

Hornung, Starla Yamada, Nancy Crawford and Beth Manczak, all juniors, are now reaping the benefits of playing the past two years.

"The upperclassmen have been very solid," Mack said. "They have played a lot of tournament golf and know

what they have to do."

In addition to strong play from the upperclassmen, the Ducks have received a boost from younger players such as Amy Eileff and Shannon Maier.

"We have taken at least one underclassmen on each trip so far," Mack said. "Our depth has made it a lot more competitive and the qualifying scores have definitely been lower."

The Ducks' next challenge comes March 1-3 in the Josten's Invitational at San Jose State. Mack said the tournament, which is to be played at the Fort Ord Bayonet Golf Course, will include nine of the nation's top 10 teams.

"It's the best field we've ever played against," Mack said. "We have never been invited to this tournament and the only reason we were invited this year was because they thought we were one of the best teams in the west. I don't know if we can win, but we can make a good showing."

None of the Duck players have played the Fort Ord course, but Mack, said it is a long, narrow track filled with many hills.

Oregon doesn't mind playing tournaments on courses they've never played before quite as much as they used to because in April the Ducks will host the Pac-10 Championships at the Eugene Country Club.

"None of the teams in the league have played Eugene before," Mack said, "and it is tougher than any course they will have played all year."

The home course and home weather advantage is something that Mack and her team can't wait to enjoy.



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