



Photo by John Skoops

Oregon's Pat Hirai outmaneuvers Cal-State Fullerton's Jason Roberts to the canvas. Hirai won the match, 8-7.

Wrestlers stay perfect in Pac-10

By Erick Studenicka
Emerald Contributor

One streak ended but another began as Oregon's wrestling team met with mixed success over the weekend, losing to 17th-ranked Fresno State, but defeating conference rivals Cal-State Bakersfield and Cal-State Fullerton.

The victories over Bakersfield and Fullerton raised Oregon's record in the Pacific-10 Conference to 3-0. Wins against Boise State and Oregon State, the final two Pac-10 schools remaining on the Ducks' schedule, would clinch the league dual meet title for the Ducks for the second straight year.

The 25-11 loss to Fresno State Friday snapped Oregon's winning streak at eight matches and was the first loss for the Ducks at home since 1990.

Oregon began well against Fresno State, jumping out to an 8-0 lead behind a technical fall by Dan Vidlak and a major decision by Jarrett Clark. But after that, it was all Fresno State as the Bulldogs won six straight matches and built an insurmountable 22-8 lead.

Vidlak and Clark were to remain perfect throughout the weekend, combining for a 6-0 record. Vidlak, ranked third in the nation at 118 pounds, improved his record to 12-1, and Clark raised his record to 13-3. Scott Myers also retained his perfect dual-meet record by winning all three of his matches over the weekend.

Saturday evening's match with Cal-State Bakersfield was the closest of the weekend. Oregon once again dominated the lower weight classes, racing out to a 10-0 lead, but Bakersfield slowly clawed back, and after the Roadrunners' Brian Malavar decisioned Oregon's Solomon Fulp, the Ducks were up only three points, 13-10.

After Oregon's Scott Buzzard and Bakersfield's Kevin Langley drew, the crucial match became the 190-pound meeting between Duck Scott Myers and Roadrunner Jassen Froelich. Froelich scored first on an escape, but Myers got two takedowns and finished with a 6-4 victory, giving the Ducks an 18-12 lead.

Bakersfield could have tied the Ducks with a pin in the heavyweight division, but Oregon's Chris Anderson, despite losing 3-2, wrestled well and preserved the 18-15 Duck victory.

Despite the seemingly lopsided final score of 27-15, Sunday's match with Cal-State Fullerton was also a close battle. Without the 12 points Oregon received from an injury default and a forfeit, the final result could easily have been a Titan victory.

One of the biggest wins for the Ducks on Sunday came from Pat Hirai, a 142-pounder filling in for Jason Jones, who had moved up a weight classification to replace an ailing Pat Craig. Hirai, wrestling for the first time over the weekend, decisioned Jason Roberts 8-7.

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USC thrashes Ducks; Lyden lost for season

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon men's basketball team was humiliated Saturday by a tough USC team 85-56, proving the Ducks are in trouble.

The loss dropped Oregon to 5-8 overall and 1-3 in Pacific-10 Conference play. And it's a safe bet the win column will not change much as the team learned Friday injured sophomore Jordy Lyden will be lost for the season.

USC cruised to an early 11-0 lead, and the tone for the rest of the game was set. Oregon could do little on offense and nothing on defense as the Trojans went into the locker room with a 42-23 halftime lead.

The Trojans picked up where they left off in the second half, building a memories-of-Montana lead at 68-39 with more than eight minutes remaining in the game.

From that point, it was just a matter of running the clock out for both teams.

Junior guard Antoine Stoudamire led all Duck scorers with 19 points, and sophomore Clyde Jordan pitched in 15 despite having the unenviable task of guarding USC's hot-shot Harold Miner.

Neither Jordan nor any of the Ducks could stop Miner as he scored 22 points in only 27 minutes of play.

Still, Trojan's coach George Raveling thought Miner's game was a little off.

"I never thought Miner got into the flow of the game at either end of the court," he said. "He looked a little lethargic."

Lethargic or not, it didn't matter with Oregon shooting a paltry 40 percent from the field in the first half while the Trojans shot over 50 percent.

"Offensively, we panicked," Duck coach Don Mon-

son said. "We took too many ill-advised shots in the first half. When the shots aren't dropping and there's no offense, it's like they say, 'Let's just throw the ball up there.'"

"We were swimming upstream the rest of the game."

USC jumped to 11-3 overall and 3-1 in the Pac-10 and seems to be making a strong case for the conference title despite losing to Arizona last weekend.

Oregon, on the other hand, is going nowhere fast.

On Saturday, the Ducks had two freshmen in the starting lineup — point guard Johnnie Reece, who scored only three points and had one assist and forward Jeff Potter, starting in his first game had five points and three rebounds.

"You don't know what to expect from inexperienced teams," Monson said. "Teams are watching us on film and know that we play freshmen that are tentative players. They're going to go after our freshmen more aggressively."

Injuries are catching up with the Ducks too.

Andre Collier and Lyden were the top two scorers before their injuries, and now both are out for the year. Stoudamire is the only player who has scored consistently for Oregon.

The Ducks are hoping to benefit from the home crowd when they return to McArthur Court this weekend for games against Washington State on Thursday and Washington on Saturday.

For the Ducks, the return home comes not a moment too soon.

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