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TITLE

Continued from Page 1B

is that their head coach, Bob Douglass, will be the head coach for the U.S. Olympic team this summer in Barcelona.

OREGON STATE: Oregon State is often thought of as the doormat of the Pac-10 in most sports, but not in wrestling. The Beavers are the most improved team in the Pac-10, having gone from seventh in the conference tournament last year to conference dual meet champions this year.

The Beavers, ranked 16th in the country, had a perfect 7-0 conference record, including a home and away sweep of the Ducks. The Beavers traveled to Arizona State for a tournament earlier this season and placed well, but no team scores were kept.

"We started a rebuilding process two years ago," Beaver coach Mark Johnson said, "and the kids have improved faster than anyone thought possible."

The "kids" Johnson will count on include Babak Mohammadi, a sixth-place finisher at the NCAA tournament last year at 126 pounds, and Matt Willhite, the 1990 Pac-10 heavyweight champion. Other top wrestlers for Oregon State will be Ryan Sugai, a transfer from Iowa, and Dan Alar, ranked 17th in the nation at 158 pounds.

"Both Arizona State and OSU have strong wrestlers in the same weight divisions," Johnson said. "ASU is definitely the team to beat, but if we have a good tournament, we can upset them."

OREGON: The good news is that Jason Muggy and Scott Buzzard, injured for much of the dual meet season, will return and solidify Oregon's tournament team.

The bad news is that their return probably won't be enough to help the Ducks overcome either the Sun Devils or the Beavers.

The Ducks, with Dan Vidlak at 118 pounds and Jarrett Clark at 126, are as strong as anyone in the lower weights, but Oregon lacks experience and will likely lose points in the middle and upper

'Oregon probably has the most balanced team in the conference. If they can score in each weight class, they should do well.'

— Tom Ortiz,

Arizona State assistant coach

weights. Arizona State's Ortiz feels the Ducks shouldn't be overlooked, however.

"Oregon probably has the most balanced team in the conference," he said. "If they can score in each weight class, they should do well."

Other top Oregon wrestlers include former NCAA qualifier Darren Gustafson 158 pounds and Scott Myers, who had a 9-2 dual meet record, in the 190 class.

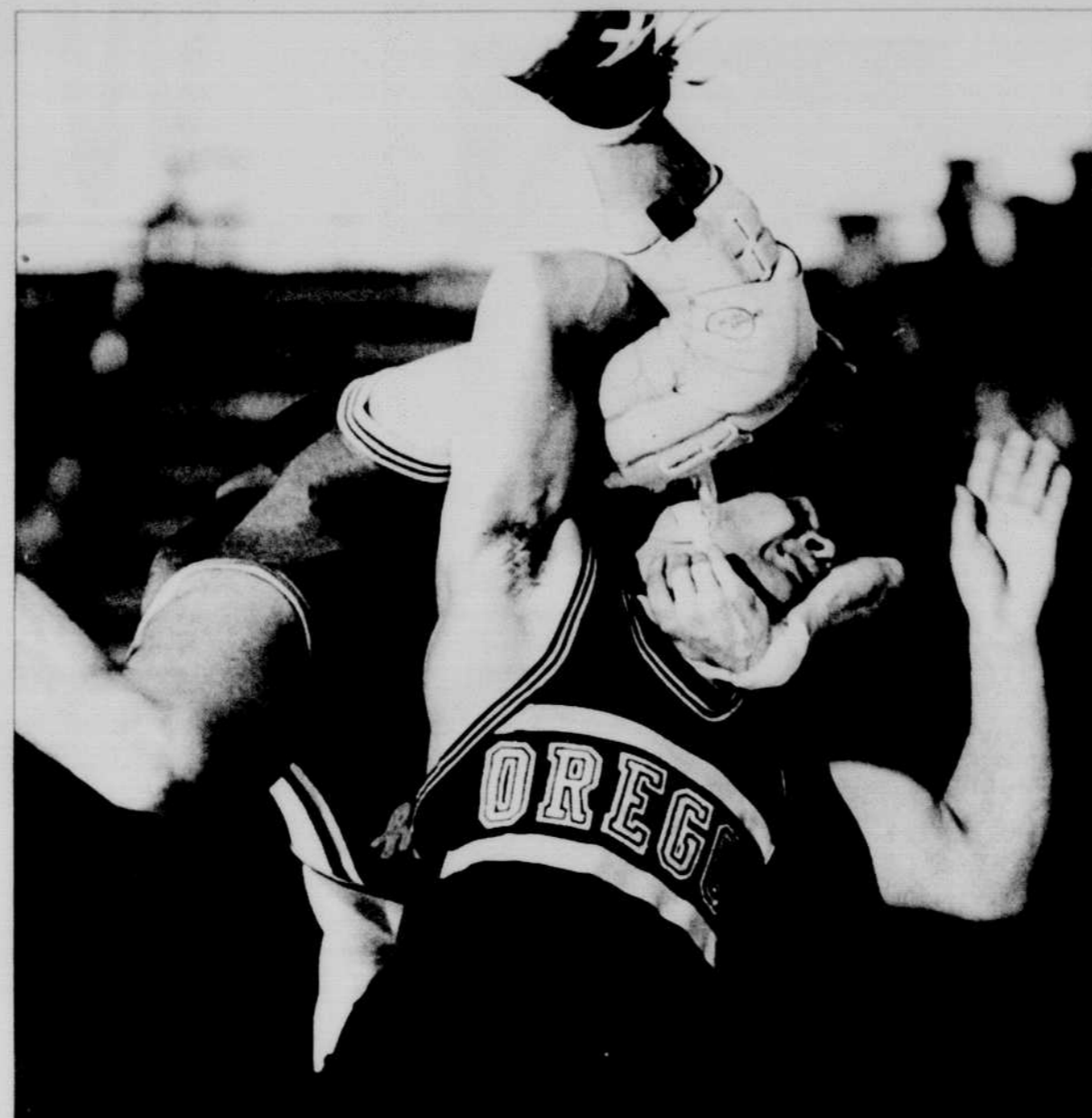
Clark is ranked 16th in the country at 126, but his weight classification is the most difficult in the tournament.

BOISE STATE: No Pac-10 coach is ruling Boise State out of the conference picture. The Broncos beat Oregon 24-18 and narrowly lost to Oregon State last month.

Boise State, a member of the wrestling Pac-10 since 1988, has favorites in several weight classifications. Nels Nelson, ranked fifth in the nation at 150, is unbeaten in Pac-10 duals this year. Paul Jackson, sixth at 167 a year ago, has moved up to 177 pounds and is now one of the favorites in that division.

CAL-STATE BAKERSFIELD: The Roadrunners' Paul Keysaw was the NCAA champion at 190 pounds last year. Fortunately for the rest of the conference, Keysaw has graduated.

Top individuals for Bakersfield, which finished second in the tournament a year ago, include Rick Monge at 150 pounds, a fourth-place finisher a year ago, and



Oregon's Jarrett Clark (left) will contend at 126 pounds. The Ducks' Darren Gustafson (directly below) could also do well at 158 pounds. OSU's Babak Mohammadi, a sixth-place finisher at the NCAA tournament last year at 126 pounds, leads the charge for the Beavers.

Photos by Susan Poston



Jason Froelich, ranked 19th in the country at 190 pounds.

FULLERTON STATE: Except for an injury and a forfeit, the Titans might have beaten the Ducks in January. Fullerton State will be lucky to duplicate its fourth place tournament finish of a year ago.

Fullerton State's best hopes for an individual title ride with Lyndon Campbell (134 pounds), who placed third a year ago.

CAL-POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO: Opposite of the Ducks, the Broncos are weak in the lower weights and strong in the upper weights.

Cal-Poly individuals could win their sixth-place finish of 1991. Matt Topham is Stanford's top wrestler and should contend for the 158-pound title.

Oregon coach Ron Finley said interest in the meet has been running high in the community, and he expects large crowds over the

weekend. He said it has been more than a decade since a meet of this caliber has been held in the Northwest.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE
Friday, Feb. 25, Noon — First-Round Matches, 7 p.m. — Championship Semifinals; Saturday Feb. 26, Noon — Consolation and Fifth-Place Matches, 5:30 p.m. — Consolation Finals, 7:30 p.m. — Championship Finals

Cardinal 25-10 earlier this year, and Oregon State demolished Stanford 36-2. It will be a major surprise if the Cardinal match their sixth-place finish of 1991.

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