

Wrestlers take just hours to bury Vikings, SOSOC

By Erick Studenicka
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon wrestling team won both ends of its "doubleheader" Saturday, as the squad defeated Portland State 29-11 at home during the afternoon and then beat Southern Oregon State 22-11 at Ashland a scant five hours later.

Kevin Roberts gave the Ducks an early 5-0 lead against the Vikings with a 25-9 technical fall over Gary Malone in the 118-pound category. At that point, it seemed the meet would be a repeat of Oregon's 37-2 rout over Portland State last season in Portland.

But the Vikings, an NCAA Division II team, rebounded to take the next two of three matches to even the team score 8-8. Pat Craig then beat Shane Lake 13-3 to give the Ducks a 12-8 team lead.

At 158 pounds, Oregon sent redshirt freshman Clint Messner out to meet Portland State's most experienced wrestler, senior Damion Tripplett. Messner, who did not even take part in practice last year because of two knee operations, completely dominated Tripplett.

Tripplett was unable to even score an escape, giving Messner a 7-0 win and the Ducks a solid 15-8 team lead.

Messner doesn't cut himself much slack when it comes time to wrestle older, more experienced opponents.

"I've already had about 30 matches this season, so I've got some experience now," Messner said. "At the beginning of the season, I got a little nervous when I'd have to face a senior, but that all changed after I got a few wins and my confidence grew."

Oregon's upper-weight wrestlers continued their recent domination by taking three of the four matches above 158 pounds, with Mat Sprague, Jeff McCoy and Chris Anderson all winning their bouts. It took Anderson only 1:20 to pin Erik Cummings in the heavyweight division for the only fall of the afternoon.

After the match, coach Ron Finley noted the emergence of his younger wrestlers, as well as the success of Anderson.

"I've always said that if we gave our young wrestlers enough matches, they would gain confidence and wrestle well," Finley said. "When you compare Anderson from last year to this year, you

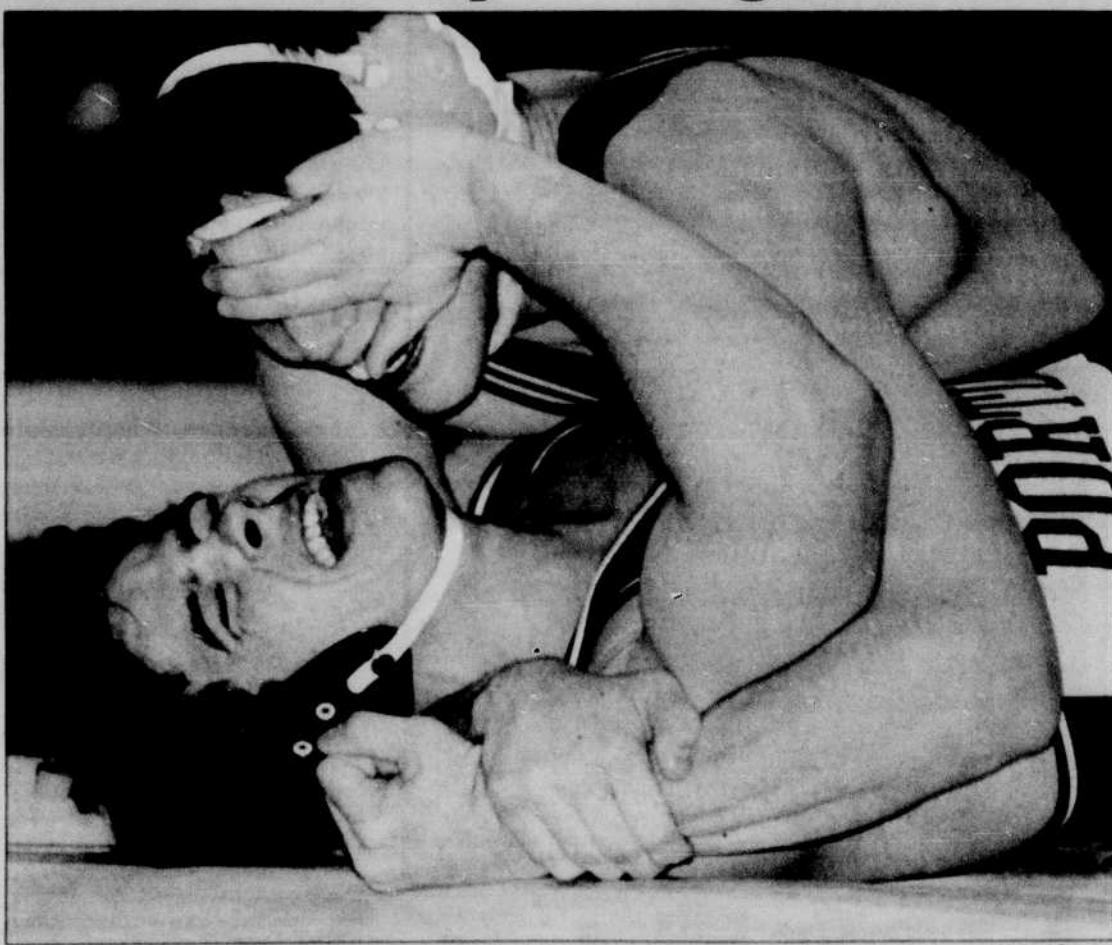


Photo by Michael Shriner

Oregon's Jeff McCoy (top) battles against a Portland State wrestler in the Ducks' win over the Vikings.

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Photo by David Hart

Oregon's Cindy Murphy goes for a rebound in the Ducks' 87-74 loss to Washington Saturday at McArthur Court.

Women still winless in Pac-10

By Steve Mims
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's basketball team grabbed a 40-37 halftime lead, but blew it early in the second half, losing to Washington 87-74 at McArthur Court Saturday night.

Oregon shot 50 percent from the field in the first half and outrebounded Washington 21-18 in the opening half to take the lead into the locker room at halftime. Washington shot just 41 percent in the first half, but attempted 10 more shots than the Ducks to stay in the game.

The halftime lead marked the fifth time in six Pacific-10 Conference games that the Ducks have either led or been tied at halftime, but like the other four times, Oregon lost. The 40-37 score marked the third time in four games that Oregon led by the same score, but the leads have been short-lived.

"I thought we could have been up by 10 points at halftime," Oregon head coach Elwin Heiny said. "The game is 40 minutes long, and we must learn that."

Washington roared out of the locker room and scored the first 12 points of the second half to

take a 49-40 lead just five minutes into the half. Oregon did not score in the half until Jean Maree Lillard hit a lay-in with 14:43 remaining in the game.

Lillard scored Oregon's first eight points of the second half and cut the Huskies' lead to 53-48 after a lay-in with 10:06 remaining in the game. Washington responded with an 18-8 run, including back-to-back three-pointers by guard Laura Moore, to push their lead to 71-56 with 3:33 left in the game. Oregon was unable to get any closer than 12 points the

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