

Valentines

Somewhere, deep under that bristling, spiny exterior, there's got to be a big-hearted softie. You know who you are. And if you need help expressing yourself this Valentine's Day - you won't want to miss Friday's special Valentine's section inside the Emerald. It's full of unique gifts to buy your sweetie and maybe even an idea to spend this special day.

Check it out!

Wrestlers set for pair of matches

By Dan Brown
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon wrestling team, fresh from a convincing victory in Ashland last weekend, is back home tonight to face Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo before traveling north to face Portland State on Friday.

The Ducks, injury-prone throughout the year, enter the meet with a healthy roster.

"We have starters down the line," Oregon coach Ron Finley said. "We've been wrestling as good as we have all year, virtually error free."

The competition will be

fierce. Jake Gaeir, ranked No. 5 in the nation at 158 pounds, leads a tough Mustang squad. Gaeir has a 23-1 record this season, including a perfect 12-0 record in dual meets.

"They are a good team, and this will be an exciting meet," Finley said. "Gaeir's obviously strong, but they also have Neil Mason and he's 14-2. Donnie Miller, a senior at 167 pounds, is tough, but we need to beat them."

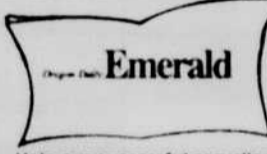
With the season drawing to a close, it is important for the Ducks to win. They are 3-3 in the Pacific-10 Conference, and Cal Poly, a member of the Pac-10 in

wrestling, is 3-1. With the conference tournament coming at the end of February, this meet is important not only for the experience of the team but placing for the tournament.

"We are starting to look like a tournament team," Finley said. "We are wrestling strong, but we need more fans. We need encouragement and noise. That really helps," he said.

The Ducks will be on the road Friday at Portland State, a Division II school that has struggled to a 4-12 record this season.

The Cal Poly meet begins at MacArthur Court tonight at 7:30.



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Ski team faces big challenge at meet

By Steve Mims
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon club sports ski team will be in Winterpark, Colo. this weekend to compete in the Western Division Championships. A berth at the NCAA championships is on the line.

The Ducks are coming off a solid performance at the Northwest regional meet, where they finished in sixth place out of 19 teams. The Western championships is a four-day event, running from Sunday, Feb. 13 through Wednesday, Feb. 16. It features two days each of slalom and giant slalom racing.

The Ducks will be facing a collection of NCAA and club teams, said Matt Hill, the team's promotion director. The Ducks would appear to be at a disadvantage against some of the teams, which have the budget to staff a full-time coach. Oregon's coach, Cliff Coleman, is a volunteer.

The Ducks will take a men's and a women's team to the championships in hopes of qualifying either a team and/or individuals.

"Our goal is to finish high in the team scoring," Hill said. "We'd like to be one of the top Northwest teams and improve on our regional finish. As for individuals, we will be racing to vie for nationals if the team doesn't make it."

The women's team suffered a setback when Kristen Klindt injured her knee while competing in Idaho. The injury forces her to miss this weekend's meet. Leading the way for the women are senior Heidi Binder and sophomore Lacy Maginnis in the first and second spots, respectively.

Rounding out this weekend's roster are sophomores Brooke Siler and Summer Bass and freshman Kathy Wardue. All five women will race in both slalom and giant slalom races, Hill said.

On the men's side, Jeremy Sanchez, Jeff Jewett, Alan Siler and Shane Graves will race both events. Pete Manka will compete in the giant slalom races, and Nat Kidder will race slalom.

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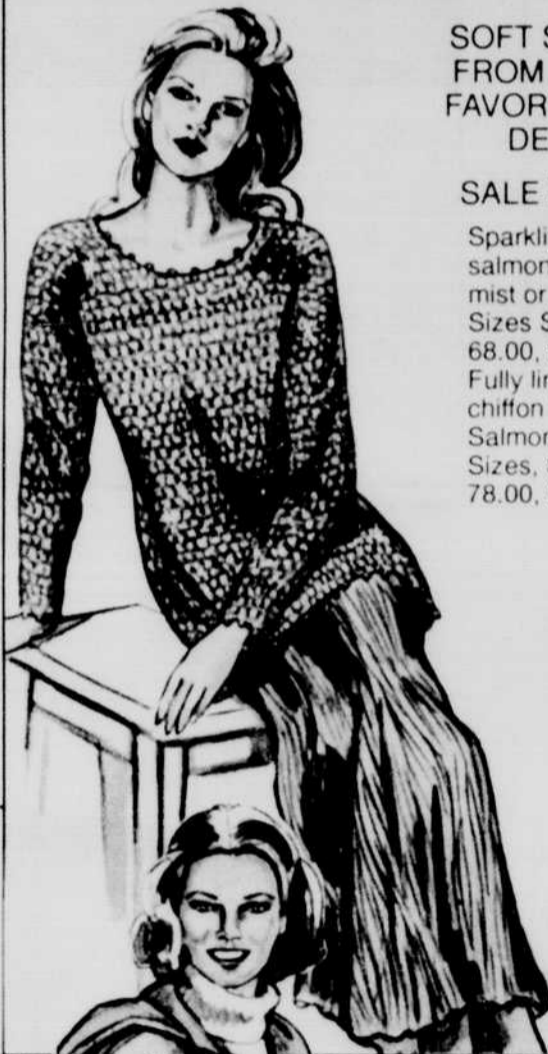


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