

Duck basketball teams get ready for Civil Wars

Men go after first Pac-10 sweep of OSU in years

By Dave Charbonneau
Oregon Daily Emerald

It's only fitting that Oregon and Oregon State meet at the halfway point of the Pacific-10 Conference season.

As the two teams stumble into Saturday's Civil War at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis, they find themselves heading in the same direction. Both occupy the bottom of the standings with nearly identical records. The Ducks are 2-7 in the Pac-10 and 6-12 overall, and the Beavers are 1-8 and 5-13.

Both teams have a win against last-place Washington, and the only difference in their records comes from the fact that Oregon managed to beat Oregon State earlier this season at McArthur Court.

So the stage is set, for whatever that's worth, for the 300th meeting of these two schools. And it could be the least-anticipated meeting of the two teams in the history of the Civil War.

The Beavers were riddled with injuries at the beginning of the

season, and the Ducks have had to tough it out as their new players find their stride.

Oregon has made its share of mistakes on the court this season. But lately, head coach Jerry Green's players' mistakes off the court have been frustrating head coach Jerry Green.

Last week, back-up point guard Brion Smith was suspended indefinitely, and Tuesday, center Zach Sellers got a one-game suspension for failing to meet the academic standards of the team.

"They're two totally different things," Green said. "It's an internal battle that we don't need right now. We need to be concentrating on battling UCLA, Oregon State, Arizona and the rest of our competition. Every school in the nation deals with internal problems at one point. We just need to get through it as best we can."

Neither player will play Saturday, and Smith may not return to the team at all.

"We'll make a decision on Smith Monday," Green said.

Although Sellers' suspension will hurt the team more, as far as point and rebounding produc-



JEFF PASLAY/Oregon Daily Emerald
Oregon center Zach Sellers will not play in Saturday's Civil War.

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Women seek revenge

By Scott Simonson
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon women's basketball team may have problems on Friday night, but lack of motivation won't be one of them.

For starters, Oregon's opponent at 7:30 p.m. Friday at McArthur Court is Oregon State.

Second, when the Ducks, 6-3 in the Pacific-10 Conference and 12-6 overall, played Oregon State, 4-5 and 12-6, the first time this season, Oregon State administered a beating that neither team would soon forget. The Beavers won 86-68, the most lopsided Oregon State victory in the series in 18 years.

Third, Oregon is battling for an NCAA tournament bid and is in the thick of the conference race. But Oregon head coach Jody Runge said her team isn't concerned with the rest of the Pac-10 or the NCAA's this weekend.

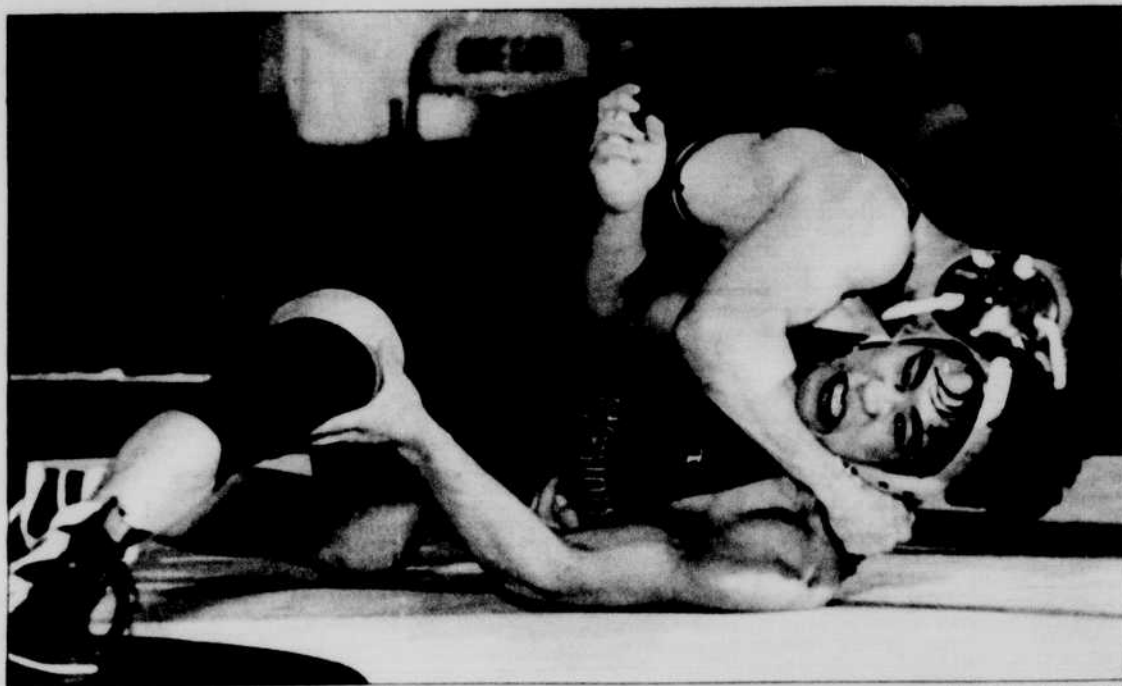
"This is a rematch for us," Runge said. "It's more important to us because it's Oregon State and not because we need this game for how it's going to affect our season."

"We went up there and really got embarrassed. We felt like we can give them a better game than that, and I think the kids are really fired up and ready to play them."

Runge said that Oregon's ability to handle Oregon State's defensive pressure will be a key to the Ducks' success. When Oregon played in Corvallis on Jan. 13, the Ducks were unprepared for just how aggressive and how physical Oregon State was capable of playing.

Oregon hung close for most of the game before the Beavers put on a big run late in the second half. With a big crowd and the referees behind them, Oregon State

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Michael Shindler/Emerald
Oregon's Pat Hiral tries to get out from under Cal Poly's Dale Hanover during Oregon's win at Mac Court Thursday.

Oregon wrestlers take to mat for fourth win

By Dan Brown
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

In tough meet Thursday night the Oregon Ducks wrestling team managed their fourth win in as many outings.

The Cal Poly Mustangs, 9-9 overall, drop to 3-4 in the Pacific-10 Conference and the Ducks move to 9-4 and 5-3 in the Pac-10.

The meet started well for the Ducks as Kevin Roberts won a decision over Tyson Rondeau at 118 and Chris Jensen was awarded a technical fall at 126, after dominating the match.

The middle weights proved the toughest for the Ducks as they lost the next five matches

including a scrappy Scott Norton at 150 who battled 5th ranked Jake Gaeir to the end.

Finishing the meet strong, the heavier weights Jeff McCoy and Chris Anderson, easily controlled their opponents to score convincing victories and salvage the meet for the Ducks who were trailing until the final match.

"We are pleased with the win," said Coach Ron Finley, "but there were a few matches that were disappointing. Some guys just have to decide to win."

The Ducks take their winning streak to Portland State on Saturday and return home to finish the season against civil-war opponent Oregon State Friday, February 18th, at 7:30.



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