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Ducks take to the road for pair of meets

Trevor Kearney
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon wrestling team meets 12th-ranked Oklahoma in Norman, Okla., on Friday before traveling to California to meet Stanford on Sunday.

Returning to Eugene with two wins could get the Ducks back into the top 25, and would definitely help erase some painful memories of the 35-3 loss to Wisconsin earlier in the season.

"It's a chance for us to get our national ranking back," said coach Ron Finley. "If we can knock them off, we can get some respect back."

Coming off an impressive victory over Portland State last week, the Ducks look to improve on their 1-7 series record against

Oklahoma. The last time the Ducks beat the Sooners was by a score of 22-16 in 1980.

But the Ducks could be without 158-pound Peter Stayner, who is suffering from a back injury and, according to Finley, is very doubtful for weekend action. Once again, the Ducks' lower weight classes will set the tone for the meet, as Oregon mainstays Kevin Roberts (118) and Jeremy Ensrud (126) will play pivotal roles.

"We really need to win the first five weights," Finley said, adding that his team has a good shot at winning if the lower weights are successful.

"If we do a good job there, we've got a real good shot," he said.

The Sooners, 4-3-2 overall and

2-2 in the Big Eight Conference, have five wrestlers on their roster that have 20 or more wins and placed seven champions in the Oklahoma Open wrestling tournament. The biggest threat the Sooners throw at the Ducks is 177-pound Quincey Clark, who is 24-1 and has six pins this season.

In early January, Oklahoma lost 18-13 to Fresno State, a team that the Ducks lost to by a similar score of 21-15. The two teams have another common opponent in Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, who the Sooners beat 21-14 and the Ducks beat 20-17. The two opponents suggest that the teams match up fairly closely.

"I look for it to be a close meet," Finley said. "They are

always tough at home."

The Ducks then travel to Stanford, where they lead the series 21-1. The Cardinal, 2-2 in dual meets this year, lost to Cal Poly 34-7 earlier in the season, and placed 23rd in the Las Vegas Invitational, where the Ducks took 10th. While the Cardinal took seventh at the Oregon Classic on Dec. 29, the Ducks captured second.

But despite the the Cardinal's past performance, the team does throw out several individual wrestlers — especially in the middle weights — that could give the Ducks some trouble.

"They are pretty tough in the middle weights," Finley said, adding that Stanford is at full strength for the first time this year.

Messier gets new contract from Rangers

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark Messier has agreed to a new contract with the Rangers that will make him second to Wayne Gretzky on the NHL salary scale this season and likely keep him in New York for the rest of his career.

The player who led the Rangers to the Stanley Cup championship last year signed a two-year deal, plus a club option for the 1996-97 season. Financial terms were not disclosed Thursday, but it is believed Messier got close to the \$6 million he sought.

"I couldn't be happier," said Messier, whose eyes brimmed with tears at a news conference.

Rangers general manager Neil Smith said, "The contract puts him in the NHL hierarchy, which he deserves."

Gretzky is being paid \$8.366 million this year by the Los Angeles Kings, with the contract prorated because of the owners' lockout. A \$6 million salary would move Messier past New Jersey's Scott Stevens, who is making \$5.8 million this season.

THURSDAY'S TRANSACTIONS

AUTO RACING

■ JONATHAN BYRD-DICK SIMON RACING—Named Davy Jones driver of two entries in the Indianapolis 500.

BASEBALL

AL

■ TEXAS RANGERS—Named Jim Byrd player-coach for Tulsa of the Texas League.

NL

■ ST. PAUL SAINTS—Sold the contract of Leon Durham, first baseman, to the California Angels. Announced that Jim Manfred, pitcher, will attend minor-league spring training with the Florida Marlins and Scott Centala, pitcher, will attend minor-league spring training with the Minnesota Twins.

■ SIOUX CITY EXPLORERS—Announced that Ty Griffin, second baseman, has signed with the St. Louis Cardinals.

WESTERN LEAGUE

■ PALM SPRINGS SUNS—Signed Ray Judy, infielder, and Ken Krahenbuhl, pitcher.

BASKETBALL

■ USA BASKETBALL—Named North Carolina women's coach Sylvia Hatchell head coach of the 1996 World University Games U.S. women's team and Connecticut women's coach Geno Auriemma, Southern Mississippi women's coach Kay James and George Mason women's coach Jim Lewis assistant coaches of the team.

NBA

■ CLEVELAND CAVALIERS—Placed Mark Price, guard, on the injured list. Signed Elmer Bennett, guard, to a 10-day contract.

FOOTBALL

NFL

■ KANSAS CITY CHIEFS—Fired Tom Pratt, defensive line coach, and announced that Herman Edwards, secondary coach, has been reassigned to player personnel duties. Named Gunther Cunningham defensive line coach.

ARENA FOOTBALL LEAGUE

■ MILWAUKEE MUSTANGS—Signed Shane Garrett, wide receiver-defensive back.
■ ST. LOUIS STAMPEDE—Claimed Falanda Newton, defensive specialist, and John Shannon, lineman, off waivers. Waived Matt Martinez, fullback-linebacker.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

■ MONTREAL CANADIENS—Recalled Martin Brochu, goaltender, from Fredericton of the American Hockey League.
■ PITTSBURGH PENGUINS—Signed Patrick Lalime, goaltender, and assigned him to Cleveland of the International Hockey League.

CENTRAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

■ TULSA OILERS—Acquired Mike Sanderson, center, from the Fort Worth Fire for future considerations.

COLONIAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

■ BRANTFORD SMOKE—Traded Mike Speer, defenseman; Bob Delorme, goaltender; and future considerations to the Utica Blizzard for Wayne Marion, goaltender; Sebastien Fortier, forward; and Rob Peters, defenseman.

EAST COAST HOCKEY LEAGUE

■ ECHL—Announced that Mobile, Ala., has

been accepted as the 20th member franchise and will begin play in the 1995-96 season.

■ MOBILE, ALA.—Named Steve Chapman general manager.

■ ROANOKE EXPRESS—Announced that Michael Smith, defenseman, has been recalled by the Minnesota Moose of the International Hockey League.

COLLEGES

■ BAYLOR—Named Susan E. Glatter director of compliance.

■ DAYTON—Announced the resignation of Bill Glisson, women's soccer coach, effective Feb. 12.

■ NEW MEXICO—Named Cornell Jackson outside linebackers coach.

■ NICHOLLS STATE—Announced the resignation Rick Rhoades, football coach, effective Feb. 10.

■ OHIO STATE—Promoted Kate Riffe, academic adviser, to assistant athletic director for student-athlete support services.

■ SAINT ANSEL—Named David Maloney assistant lacrosse coach.

■ ST. JOSEPH'S, Maine—Named Karen Croteau field hockey coach.

■ SOUTH CAROLINA STATE—Named Mary Hill women's volleyball and softball coach.

■ SYRACUSE—Named Edward Orgeron defensive line coach. Announced that Antonio Anderson, tackle; Emile Palmer, nose guard; and Greg Shaw, linebacker, have been dismissed from school for failure to fulfill their academic obligations.

■ TROY STATE—Named Rod McWhorter assistant baseball coach.

MENS

Continued from Page 11

After a rousing rendition of the national anthem, Oregon took control in the first half behind three Darryl Parker 3-pointers and went ahead 35-22 with seven minutes left in the half.

But quick shots on offense and poor low-post defense resulted in a 14-0 run by Arizona in the following two minutes. Both teams exchanged scoring spurts and ended the half deadlocked at 49-49.

The Wildcats used a 19-5 run early in the second half and bruised its way to a 70-59 lead with 10 minutes to play — using only

one basket beyond the paint. After that run, the closest Oregon was able to get to Arizona was 91-85 with 1:55 left in the game following five-straight baskets beyond the arc.

"(Arizona) just came out in the second half and executed better than we did," Oregon forward Henry Madden said after leading the Ducks with 10 rebounds. "We didn't box out like Oregon players are capable of and every time a shot went up, their big guys were able to grab the rebound."

"They wanted it more and were more aggressive than we were towards the end of the game."

Arizona's tenacious defense was able to disrupt many facets of the Oregon attack, as the

Ducks were only able to hit 37 percent of their shots and weren't able to free Orlando Williams up for his jump shot.

Oregon forward Jeff Potter and Lawrence led the Ducks offensively with 15 points apiece, while Williams was able to pump in 14 points — most coming after Arizona had secured the victory.

Point guard Kenya Wilkins found time to dish out 10 assists, with only two turnovers, to go along with his 12 points. Wilkins also did all he could in defending the All-American candidate from Arizona.

"(Stoudamire) was hitting from out deep," Wilkins said with a bruised ego. "It was just rough out there."

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