

Dynamic Duo

Kevin Roberts and Jeremy Ensrud are the Ducks' go-to guys

Trevor Kearney
Oregon Daily Emerald

Kevin Roberts and Jeremy Ensrud like to work together. But on occasion — let's say, almost everyday at 3:30 p.m. — they like to throw down and toss each other around the room.

That's not unusual, however, during afternoon wrestling practice in the stuffy, music-filled gym at the Casanova Center. What is unusual, though, is the way that these two wrestlers motivate each other, and the almost brother-like bond that they have created doing it.

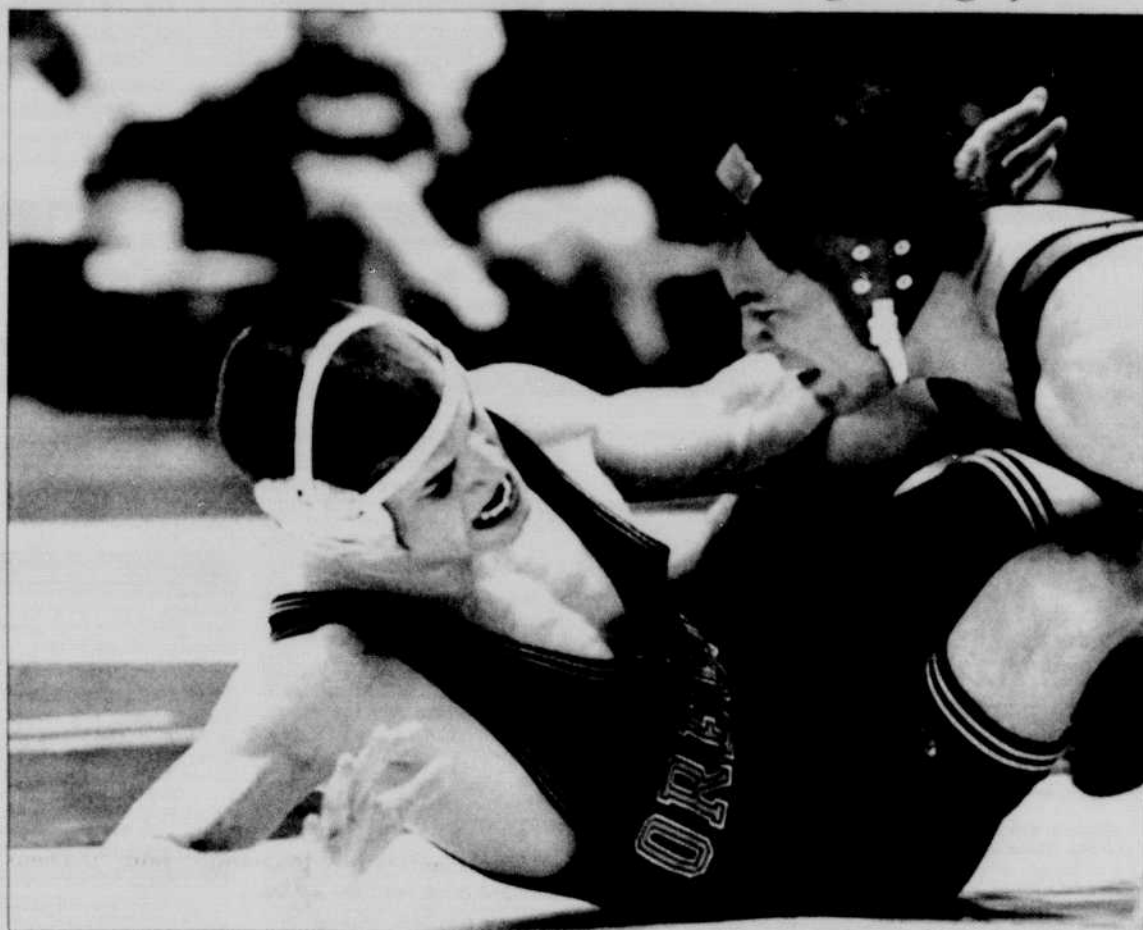
"I think they help each other a lot," head coach Ron Finley said of the way the two

train together.

"Everybody is a teammate, but maybe [Ensrud is] the next step up," Roberts said of the friendship. "I think we just push each other. We both want to succeed no matter what, just like we want everybody on our team to. We really push each other in the practice room, so it carries over into the match."

"We push each other pretty hard," Ensrud said. "We just kind of push each other around the room, and kind of brawl, I guess, in practice."

As it stands now, Roberts, a 118-pound junior from Spokane, Wash., and Ensrud, the 126-pound redshirt freshman out of



Kevin Roberts (left), seen trying to escape Wisconsin's Matt Hanutke, is one half of the Oregon wrestling team's powerful lower weight-class duo, which includes Jeremy Ensrud.

Hillsboro, make up the potent combination that starts off each Oregon wrestling match.

But the friendship actually has roots that date back before the two even knew each other.

In his first year at Oregon, Roberts — who racked up a 92-18 record in high school — red-shirted and had to wrestle two-time All-American Dan Vidlak in practice all season long.

"He used to whip up on me pretty good," Roberts said. "But now I'm getting my chance to be the older guy when the freshmen

walk in the room."

Enter Ensrud. On a recruiting visit to Oregon two years ago, he observed Roberts and his success as a freshman, and eventually decided to become part of the program.

"Kevin was one of the major factors," said Ensrud of why he came to Oregon. "I liked his work ethic. I saw him as a hard worker."

So when Ensrud, who had a 35-0 record and was the 123-pound state champion in his senior year at Hillsboro High

School, came to Oregon and red-shirted in 1993, the opportunity arose for Roberts to take his shot at being the bully to the newcomer.

"I did [knock Ensrud around] for a while, last year, but my time ran up on him," Roberts said, grinning. "I don't know what happened, but over the summer he got tough as heck."

"We match each other move for move."

Indeed, Ensrud has not only dropped any innocent freshman

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Stockton captures assists record

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — John Stockton became the NBA's career assists leader Wednesday night, topping Magic Johnson's record with his 9,922nd assist.

Appropriately, Stockton's milestone pass went to Karl Malone, who hit a shot from the left corner with 6:23 to go before halftime in the Utah Jazz's game against the Denver Nuggets.

Just 1:02 before, his pass to Tom Chambers for a 16-foot jumper — off Stockton's slicing drive to the basket — tied the record.

Stockton's record-setting performance came in his 860th pro game. Johnson set his assist total in 874 games from 1979 to 1992 with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Robinson, Spurs down Blazers

PORTLAND (AP) — David Robinson scored 34 points, including a three-point play for the go-ahead basket with 42 seconds to play, as the San Antonio Spurs won their fifth straight with a victory over Portland.

Sean Elliott scored 20 of his 26 points in the second half, 13 in the fourth quarter. His two free throws with 9.1 seconds to play clinched the victory for the Spurs, who have 20 wins in their last 25 games.

Rod Strickland had 24 points and 11 assists for the Blazers. Clifford Robinson scored 23 but was just 9-for-25 from the field. Clyde Drexler scored 18 but made only five of 18 shots.

Humphries faces elbow surgery

SAN DIEGO (AP) — One day after redislocating his left elbow while swinging a golf club, San Diego Chargers quarterback Stan Humphries is facing probable surgery.

Humphries had a magnetic resonance imaging test Wednesday on his non-throwing elbow, but the result is not yet known.

"The likelihood is that we're looking at some potential surgery," coach Bobby Ross said. "It's a good time for it. It's the best time it could have happened."

Humphries, 29, was injured Tuesday while hitting golf balls at the Pebble Beach Polo Field driving range. Humphries was scheduled to play in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

Duck football mines Golden State for 11 recruits

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The Oregon football team cashed in on a Pacific-10 Conference football championship and a Rose Bowl appearance Wednesday when it announced its letter-of-intent signees.

Among the recruits were highly touted quarterback Justin Wilcox, brother of current Duck tight end Josh Wilcox, and defensive back/wide receiver Brandon McLemore, brother of Oregon flanker Cristin McLemore.

"I think that this class is a good recruiting class," said coach Rich Brooks. "I think that we proved last year that sometimes the recruiting polls don't always give a true indication of the strength of a recruiting class."

The Ducks tapped California for 11 players — including

McLemore and running back David Crump, who will practice with the team in the spring — while hitting Oregon, Washington and Colorado for three players apiece. In all, the Ducks signed 12 offensive and nine defensive recruits, including four defensive backs and four offensive linemen.

"The thing that we wanted to address was we wanted to try to bring in some people in various positions," Brooks said. "We accomplished that in the secondary... particularly in the safety area. We accomplished it in the running back area, fullback and tailback. And we feel that we got some very good offensive linemen."

Brooks emphasized that Wilcox was the team's main quarterback focus, both for his

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OREGON FOOTBALL RECRUITS

The 1995 letter-of-intent signees for the University of Oregon.

JOSH BECKETT, OL, 6-4, 291, Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.
TODD BROOKS, FB, 6-1, 220, Hayward, Calif.
AARON CHEUVRON, ILB, 6-2, 205, Arvada, Colo.
DAVID CRUMP, RB, 5-10, 180, Stockton, Calif.
PAUL DRIVER, OL, 6-3, 280, Oakland, Calif.
MICHAEL FLETCHER, DB, 5-11, 180, Paramount, Calif.
ANDREW FLOOR, RB, 5-9, 191, Loomis, Calif.
DEREK KRUG, OLB, 6-3, 195, Los Gatos, Calif.
DERIEN LATIMER, RB, 5-11, 190, Colorado Springs, Colo.
BRANDON MCLEMORE, DB/WR, 6-3, 180, Torrance, Calif.
DEKE MOEN, OL, 6-5, 288, Vancouver, Wash.
NATHAN NAGGI, TE, 6-4, 195, Beaverton
MATT NICHOLS, DL, 6-4, 270, Hawaiian, Calif.
JACK PRICE, OL, 6-5, 288, Bend
PETER SIRMON, ILB, 6-2, 210, Walla Walla, Wash.
CALEB SMITH, DL, 6-5, 245, Vashon, Wash.
RICHEL THOMAS, DL, 6-3, 256, Colorado Springs, Colo.
TYREE WASHINGTON, DB, 6-0, 165, Riverside, Calif.
JUSTIN WILCOX, QB, 6-2, 175, Junction City
CHIRS YOUNG, DB, 6-1, 200, Garden Grove, Calif.

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