

# Wrestlers salvage tie over weekend

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Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon wrestling team came back from a 29-9 loss to Arizona State Saturday night by tying Boise State 19-19 Sunday afternoon to end their regular season.

The weekend matches brought the team's record to 4-7-1 overall and 2-5 in the Pacific-10 Conference.

"I think we probably wrestled better than [Saturday night], but not good enough for me," said head coach Ron Finley.

The highlight of Sunday's meet was 126 pound Jeremy Ensrud, who dominated the Bronco's Luke Løifer and eventually pinned him with 14 seconds to go in the first period. The win brought his record to 20-5.

"Jeremy Ensrud got the only fall for us," Finley

said. "He got the job done. We need more pins like Jeremy's [pin]. I get excited when there is a fall."

A controversial call in the overtime period of Sunday's 118-pound match gave Boise State's Brett Bingham a 2-1 win over Oregon's Kevin Roberts. According to referee Gary Mineger, even though Bingham didn't earn an escape, Roberts lost control, giving Bingham the decisive point. After a narrow loss to Arizona State's Danny Felix on Saturday, Roberts' record is 22-4.

"That was an important match," Finley said. "It made the difference in the meet and makes the difference in the seeding for Kevin."

In Saturday's meet, the Ducks went into the final weight class with only three points from an earlier Ensrud win, but heavyweight Nathan Sullivan chalked up six points by pinning the Sun Devils' Jason McCloud just 23 seconds into the match.

## BROOKS

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Brooks turned the Oregon football program around, compiling a 67-60 record in his last 11 years, including four bowl appearances in the past six years. In his 18 years as head coach, Brooks won and coached more games than any other coach in Oregon history. His four bowl appearances are also more than any other coach at Oregon has achieved. Brooks nabbed both the national and the Pacific-10 Conference coach of the year awards in his 1994-95 Rose Bowl campaign.

"I am a little disappointed to be leaving a great university and an outstanding group of young men," Brooks said, adding that

he would keep the Eugene house he just built. "The people that mean the most to me are the people who I've coached, who have played for me, and the people I've worked with."

"I'm disappointed he has to go," interim athletic director Dan Williams said. "He is honest and extremely competent and has a lot of talent when it comes to how football works. [The Rams] are getting a fine person and an outstanding coach."

Brooks had two previous stints in the NFL before coaching the Ducks, the first as an assistant coach in charge of special teams for the Rams in 1971 and 1972 and the second as an assistant with the San Francisco 49ers in 1974 and 1975. The

rebuilding of the Rams, however, proves to be the biggest challenge of his career.

"I think there is pressure to win at every level in coaching," he said, "but the NFL is as tough as it gets. I believe this is a good opportunity for me. I think the opportunity to turn this program around is there."

According to Brooks, the job is an opportunity to put the final touches on his already brimming resume. But he realizes it won't be an easy task.

"I think the pinnacle would be making it to that level and being successful at that level," he said of the NFL. "If I don't do it, they will have someone else there to do it, so I think it is important that I get it done quickly."

## RAMS

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cial concerns to think about.

O'Keefe said about the only thing that people he has talked to know about Brooks, who coached for 18 years at Oregon, is the recent success that his Oregon Ducks had and the national coaching awards that he received as a result.

But as the city readies for NFL football for the first time since the Cardinals left in the mid-1980s, the fans of St. Louis seem ready to back up just about any head coach.

"Everybody's just gone Rams crazy here," O'Keefe said. "St. Louis is a sports town. I think Brooks will receive a lot of support here."

Armchair quarterbacks in the city hope that Brooks will be able to rebuild the team much like he did with the Ducks. O'Keefe said that people have come out in support of Brooks, praising him for what he's done for Oregon, especially considering the recruiting advantages that other Pac-10 teams like Washington, UCLA and USC hold over the Oregon program.

"People realize that Oregon is basically fourth in the ladder in the Pac-10," O'Keefe said. "All we as fans can do is wait and see. The only thing we ask from our sports team is give us decent talent and

stay competitive."

Sunday night on the talk-radio stations, talk of the hiring was the main topic. Randy Kerraker of KMOX radio said the St. Louis fans have had a chance to learn about Brooks and endorsements from respected former coaches like Dick Vermeil and Bill Walsh have opened up their eyes.

"People here were skeptical on Friday and Saturday," Kerraker said. "But Saturday's news conference helped out, and a lot of minds have been changed."

Kerraker, who hosts a sports call-in show, said over the last two weeks, the consensus of the fans was that the Rams more than likely would hire a lesser-known coach. While Ditka's name was mentioned and was an overwhelming choice of the fans in a St. Louis Post-Dispatch poll, fans expected the Rams would go for a more economically feasible college coach to smooth things over in the transitional year.

Kerraker said Brooks is relatively unknown because Pac-10 games aren't televised or talked about very much in the Midwest. But the endorsements that Brooks has received since taking the job have been impressive, to say the least.

## SCORERS

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ing from their senior scoring duo can prove deadly. Just as it did on Saturday.

The Ducks outshot their in-state rivals in the first half, hitting 18 of 28 from the field, while the Beavers had their fair share of problems connecting on only 13 of 27 shots. Hoff, who averages more than 19 points a game, was held scoreless in the opening half and was only able to get four shots off. Barry was held to four points and was victimized for five turnovers in the first 20 minutes of play.

"I thought we did a good job of defense on Barry in the first half and Hoff in the second half," Oregon head

coach Jerry Green said.

Although Barry finished the game with 17 points and Hoff with 10, the scoring duo's effectiveness was severely limited in the game with most of their points coming in garbage time during the second half. Despite surrendering 86 points, a stingy Duck defense forced the Beavers to utilize some of their other scorers.

"The best way to not let Barry score is to not let him touch the ball," Oregon forward Darryl Parker said about defending Barry, who lit the Ducks up for 31 points in their previous meeting. "I was not going to let him have that (31 points) in this game."

Following the game, Oregon State head coach Jim Anderson was not laying blame on his star forwards and

pointed to the uninspired play of the team as a whole for the decisive loss.

"They beat us every way possible," Anderson said of the Ducks. "We missed some easy layins. Then, all of a sudden — panic."

Barry blamed a lackluster week of practice as being a large contributor to Saturday's sub-par performance.

"There was no intensity out there," Barry said. "We didn't have any intensity during the long week of practice either."

"You would think a Civil War week would be enough to get everyone intense and ready to go, but I guess that's not the case."

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Mon., Feb. 20, 5:30-9:30 pm  
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