



Dancing Devils next on list for ailing Ducks

Kris Henry
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon men's basketball team will be looking for more than just aiding its cause for a NCAA tournament bid tonight against 15th-ranked Arizona State.

The Ducks (15-6 overall and 7-5 Pac-10) will be looking for a little revenge against the Sun Devils (19-6, 9-4) after last month's impromptu dance recital by Arizona State.

In the Sun Devils post-game celebration after beating Oregon 79-76 on Jan. 28, the team gathered at mid-court and taunted the fans with an exhibition that only Chuck Barris of the Gong Show would have enjoyed.

That scene upset many of the Oregon players, especially Jeff Potter, who said after the game that he couldn't wait to play Arizona State again for some redemption.

The revenge factor is just one of a number of incentives Oregon has for tonight's action in Tempe.

After hitting rock-bottom against Washington State in one of Oregon's worst efforts in three years, the Ducks will attempt to get back to the team aspect of playing, which helped them to their best start in 20 years.

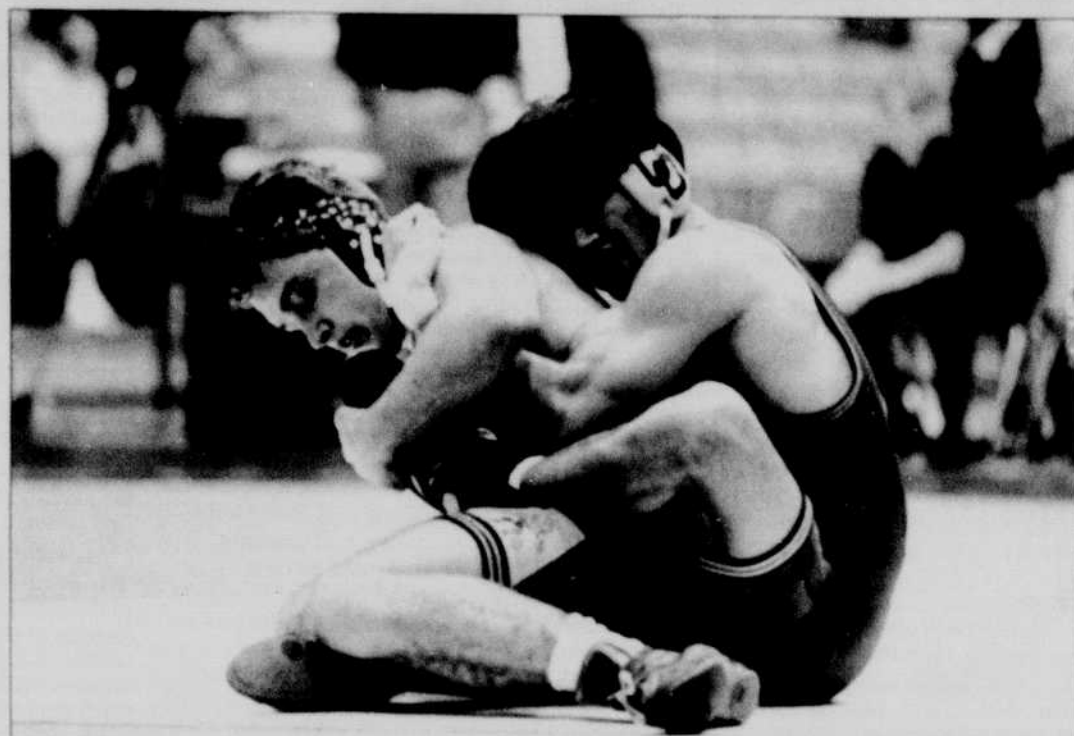
"What we've concentrated on the last couple of days in practice is trying to get a good shot and not just a shot," said Oregon head coach Jerry Green. "We're trying to get back to playing team basketball, to moving the basketball and working the basketball."

The Sun Devils have won 11 of the last 13 encounters between the two schools, and almost certainly will be offered a NCAA bid.

An Oregon victory tonight will be a formidable task for the rebounding Ducks, whose road foes this week make up the only state to have two teams rated among the top 15 in the nation. Besides the 15th-ranked Sun Devils, the state can also claim 13th-ranked Arizona, the Ducks' next challenge.

"It's going to take everything we've got in the two basketball games down there," Green said. "We've got to play very well just to give ourselves a chance to win just because of how good those teams are. We're not going to walk in and play sloppy basketball and come away with a win."

Arizona State is led by forward Mario Bennett, the leading shot blocker in the league and part-time dance coordinator for the Sun Devils. Bennett is also one of the league's top rebounders and scorers, averaging nearly 18 points and eight rebounds a game.



With a 22-5 overall record, sophomore Scott Norton will play a pivotal role in the Ducks hunt for a Pacific 10 Conference wrestling title this weekend in Corvallis.

Ducks set for Pac-10 meet

Trevor Kearney
Oregon Daily Emerald

Looking to improve on a sub-par 4-8-1 record, the Oregon wrestling team heads to Corvallis on Friday for the Pacific 10 Conference Wrestling Championships.

The Ducks will have their hands full, as nine teams compete in the tournament including No. 19 Oregon State, No. 17 Arizona State, and No. 12 Cal State Bakersfield.

"I think this is a big weekend," coach Ron Finley said. "Everything points to this weekend. Basically, this is what we have been training for all year."

The Ducks have had a tough time with Oregon State and Arizona State this year, losing to the Beavers twice and by a score of 29-9 to the Sun Devils.

"I think Arizona State and Oregon State are the two toughest teams," Finley said.

In fact, Oregon lost to all three of the ranked teams that will participate. But accord-

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Sonnen, Sprague look at meet as stepping stone

Trevor Kearney
Oregon Daily Emerald

Going into the Pacific-10 Conference Championship, seniors Cory Sonnen and Matt Sprague are facing what could be their last meet as members of the Oregon wrestling team. No matter, though, because with 10 years of college wrestling experience between the two of them, they know how to perform under pressure.

In fact Sonnen, who is the fourth-ranked 142-pound wrestler in the Pac-10 and has an 81-36-1 overall record at Oregon, isn't even considering losing as an option.

"I plan on winning, so it won't be a big surprise if I do win," Sonnen said. "It would be a disappointment

if I didn't win. The goals in my college career wouldn't be complete if I didn't go to nationals."

"I wish there was more pressure on me," said Sonnen, who is looking to go to the national meet for the third year in a row.

Like Sonnen, the 158-pound Sprague — who was a two-time state champion at Benson High School in Portland, Ore., and has a 53-27 career record at Oregon — is far from satisfied.

After posting a strong 20-6 record last season, a shoulder injury has limited Sprague to only 12 appearances this season, so he is looking forward to a successful outing at the Pac-10 meet and an appearance at nationals.

This King gives sports a good name

Just when it seems like sports has gone to hell, there's still hope. Just when the Darryl Strawberry and the Dennis Rodmans of the professional sports world seem to have spoiled its integrity for good, there's still light at the end of the tunnel — at least for a couple more years.

The Los Angeles Kings' Wayne Gretzky, all be it in a silent manner, stands for all that's right with sports, family and life in general.

As a little shin-padded rink rat growing up in the frozen tundra of the Midwest, myself and

other kids just like me were coached about a hundred different ways of doing things, on and off the ice. I can still remember my coaches preaching how we all needed to be like Wayne Gretzky. And that was in his rookie season.

His exploits on the ice are well-documented, but nonetheless incredible. He's led the league in scoring 11 times in his 16 years in the NHL. He also has won nine Hart Trophies as the league's most valuable player. And at last count, Gretzky had at least 61 all-time records under

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CHRIS METZ

THURSDAY

February 23, 1995
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Duck Notes

Women finish 11th

The Oregon women's golf team finished 11th in a tough 19-team field at the Conquistadores/Chris Johnson Arizona Invitational on Wednesday.

The Ducks were led by Shannon Hare, who tied for 26th with a 232. Christel Tomori was just one stroke behind with a 233. Becca Giersdorf tied for 37th with a 235.

Arizona State cruised to the team title, finishing with a 48-stroke advantage over second place South Carolina and Wake Forest.

Arizona State's Heather Bowie took top individual honors with a two-under-par 214. All five ASU team members finished in the top nine individual finishers.

Oregon rackets hot in split action

The Oregon men's tennis team upped its record to 15-4, including eight straight, with wins over Willamette University and the University of Portland on Monday.

Oregon's top six players traveled to Portland and disposed of the Pilots, 6-1. John DeVors notched his fifth straight singles victory for the Ducks in the City of Roses.

The rest of the Oregon squad stayed home to host Willamette. The Ducks lost the No. 1 singles match but took the rest of the day's matches to notch their second victory over Willamette this season.

ON THE TUBE

February 23

■ 1 p.m.

USA —

PGA

Golf,

Los

Angeles

Open, first round, at

Pacific Palisades, Calif.

■ 4:30 p.m. ESPN —

NCAA Basketball, Texas

at Texas Tech

■ 4:30 p.m. PRIME —

NCAA Basketball,

Virginia Tech at Va.

Commonwealth

■ 5 p.m. TBS — NBA

Basketball, Philadelphia

at Denver

■ 6:30 p.m. ESPN —

NCAA Basketball,

Massachusetts at

Temple

■ 7 p.m. PRIME —

NCAA Basketball,

Southern Cal at Stanford

■ 9 p.m. ESPN —

NCAA Basketball, UCLA

at California

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