

'Magical' Lakers beat Warriors

■ **NBA:** Los Angeles downs Golden State as Magic Johnson nearly notches a triple-double

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — After 4 1/2 seasons of retirement and stints as a coach and owner, Magic Johnson checked back into the NBA on Tuesday night.

Wearing a uniform so new it still had wrinkles and his new "MVP" shoes that were flown in specially from Taiwan, Johnson couldn't hide his enthusiasm for the game he was forced out of when he contracted the virus that causes AIDS.

The 36-year-old star shed his warmups and took the court with less than three minutes gone in the Lakers' game against Golden State. He was on the floor when the final buzzer sounded, just two rebounds shy of a triple-double.

Johnson finished with 19 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds in 27 minutes as Los Angeles defeated the Warriors 128-118.

The Lakers' starting power forward, Elden Campbell, had just picked up his second foul, and as soon as coach Del Harris turned around to look at his bench, a huge cheer went up. Johnson jogged to the scorers table to check in as the crowd gave him a standing ovation, waving signs reading, "Magic's Back."

Johnson missed his opening shot, a hook from the low post over Joe Smith, and later drove the floor for a layup for his first basket. He then made a left-handed hook.

Traces of the old Magic were clearly visible on one play. After Johnson missed a jumper, Vlade Divac snared the rebound and passed back to Johnson on the right wing, where the 36-year-old faked and drove around the 20-year-old Smith for an easy layup.

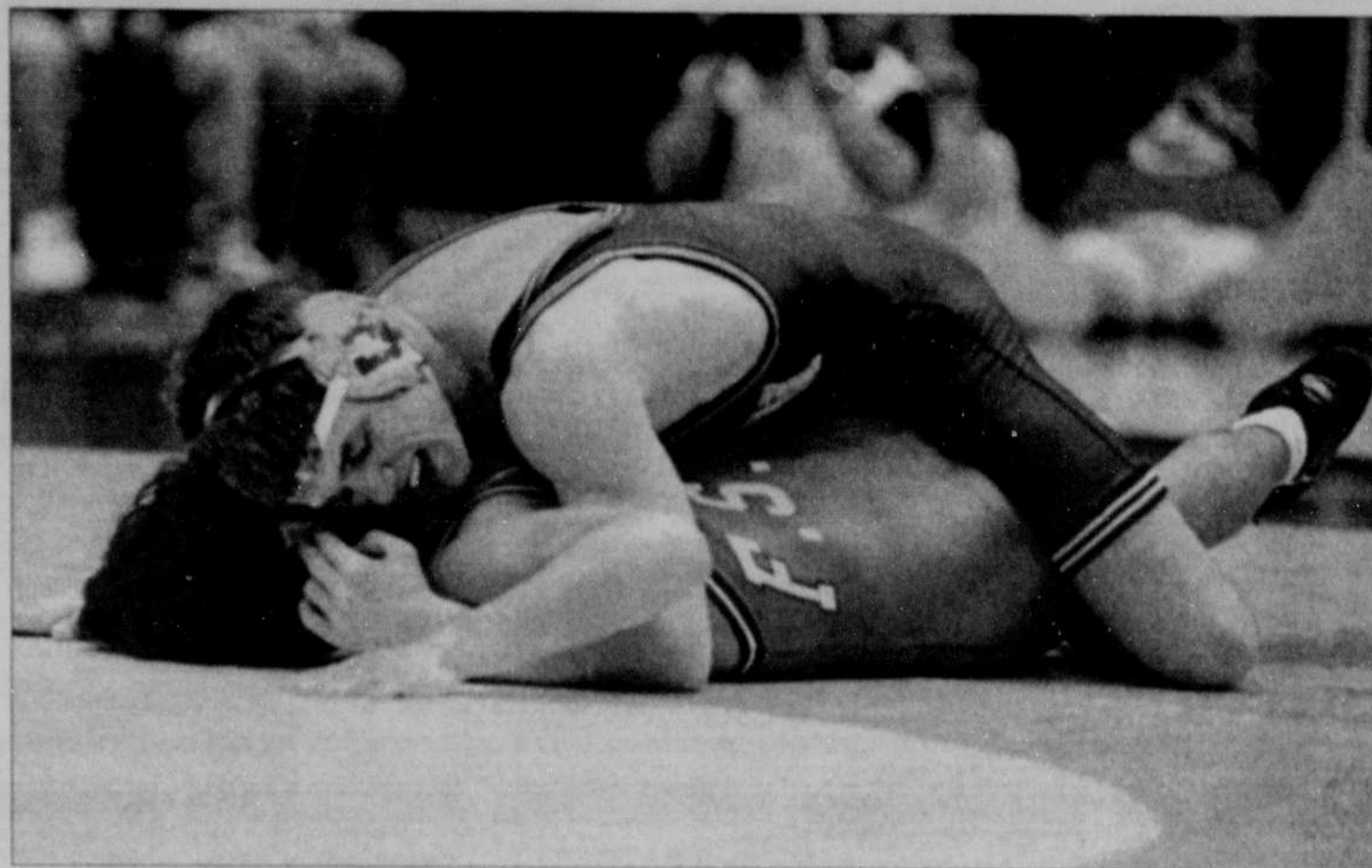
In 13 first-half minutes, Johnson was 5-for-8 with five assists, two rebounds, two steals and no turnovers. For the game, he made 7-of-14 field goal attempts.

Johnson played the low post some and also assumed ballhandling duties, even when point guard Nick Van Exel was on the court. On the defensive end, Johnson banged bodies with Smith, the rookie power forward.

Most important, he energized the young Lakers, only two of whom were around for the 1990-91 season, his last before his retirement. Los Angeles built a 17-point first-half lead against Golden State, a team that had beaten the Lakers in nine of their last 11 meetings, and scored a season-high 72 points before halftime.

When Johnson was in the game during the first half, the

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ANDREW BRACKENBICK/EMERALD

Senior Kevin Roberts, whose success in the 118-pound weight class has brought him national attention in the last four years, isn't the only wrestling Roberts at Oregon anymore; his brother Dusty joined the team this year.

Wrestling family values

Dusty Roberts has followed his brother Kevin to Oregon to achieve similar, but not parallel, success at the collegiate wrestling level

By Chris Hansen
Sports Reporter

For Oregon wrestler Dusty Roberts, the transition from high school to going out of state for college should have been more difficult. After all, he wasn't going to be just a student at Oregon; he would be a Division I athlete.



K. ROBERTS

As if that weren't enough, he was coming to a program that for the last four years has been dominated by his older brother, Kevin, a senior who is a two-time All-American, two-time Most Valuable Team Wrestler, Most Valuable Freshman in 1993, currently tied for fifth on Oregon's career victory list with 92 wins, currently ranked third in the nation at 118 pounds, and whose Gap-like good looks can be seen on wrestling posters plastered throughout the Eugene area. All of this would seemingly create a shadow that even Hulk Hogan couldn't fill.



D. ROBERTS

But Dusty Roberts refuses to live in his brother's shadow. Instead, he is intent on creating his own image and refining the skills that made him a two-time prep state champion and second-team Asics Tiger All-American while in high school in Spokane, Wash., and one of the Ducks top recruits this past year.

"Watching Kevin succeed has given me a little more drive," Dusty Roberts said. "But on the other hand, I like to compete regardless of what he's doing. I see what he does, and I envy it, but I never actually say 'I

have to be like Kevin.'"

The younger Roberts is redshirting this year, learning the ropes, being patient, waiting for his chance to succeed. He works out with the team, practicing at 142 pounds. Redshirts are expected to do everything the starters do — except get the glory on the weekends.

"I work out with the team every day, but when I see them out there wrestling, I really wish I was out there," Dusty Roberts said. "But it is good for me to be getting the experience and being patient."

While Dusty Roberts is busy being patient, his brother is busy compiling a perfect record this season, going 20-0 and dominating the 118-pound weight class.

He is on pace to break his personal best for wins set in a season two years ago when he went 29-8. It may appear that Kevin Roberts is wrestling at his peak, unstoppable even, but he is quick to remind people that the season is far from over, and he still has at least one formidable opponent left on the schedule.

"I can definitely still keep improving the next four or five weeks," Kevin Roberts said. "I need to refine some things and put some things together. Any time you're in college you have to respect your opponents, but some guys are just easier than others."

Arizona State University's Danny Felix, ranked No. 1 in the Pacific-10 Conference, will be Kevin's greatest challenge in the year's remaining dual meets. They meet Feb. 9 in Tempe, Ariz.

"[Felix] is one of those guys who can turn it on when he needs to, and I don't think he has hit his full stride yet," Kevin Roberts said. "Felix will definitely be a challenge and the toughest opponent left on my dual-meet schedule. I hope I'm ready."

The senior also needs to start getting ready for life after college. After he passes all his classes this term and next, he will graduate in June with a degree in sociology. The what-will-you-do-then question draws the look of a man who doesn't want to

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— DUSTY ROBERTS
Oregon Wrestler

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think about such riddles.

"I will start to think about that after the season is over," he said with a half-smile, half-smirk.

But he does know that his wrestling days are not over.

"I would like to try my hand at freestyle and compete on a national level. If I can find a way to support myself and allow myself the time I need to be competitive, I would like to do it for a few more years," he said. "I still think I have a lot of wrestling to learn. I will always be involved in wrestling, whether it is at the coaching level or whatever."

He would like to stay in Eugene, at least for a while, to watch what he predicts to be a stellar career at Oregon for his younger brother.

"He has been [successful] at every level so far," Kevin Roberts said. "The skill and the tenaciousness are there already."

The obvious question, then, is who would win if the two brothers went at it.

"He would," said Kevin Roberts shamelessly, with his brother nodding in the background. "I may be at a higher level wrestling, but he's bigger, so you can throw all that other stuff out the window."

So does Dusty Roberts ever think about trying to throw around his older, more decorated brother?

"No, not really. Because I know I could if I wanted to," Dusty said with a laugh. "We haven't fought for at least five years."

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