

Grapplers tune up for Pac-10 with tough December

■ **WRESTLING:** Ducks win two at home in blowout matches

By Ryan Halvorsen
Sports Reporter

The Oregon grapplers had a successful Christmas break, winning a dual-meet doubleheader and placing well in two tournaments.

Most recently the Ducks placed fourth at the nationally competitive Reno Tournament of Champions. Oregon opened up the tournament by defeating 28th-ranked Wyoming 27-12. The Ducks finished the tournament with two losses; second-ranked

Oklahoma State 37-3 and Oregon State 22-16. David Perkins (126), Scott Norton (158), Chael Sonnen (190), and Rich Polkinghorn (heavyweight) won two matches each for the Ducks on the weekend. Norton's only loss came against Oklahoma State's Hardell Moore, 4-3.

Oregon wrestled well in a field of 20 teams at the Oregon Classic in Corvallis from Dec. 28 to 29. The Ducks finished fourth overall behind Oregon State, Ohio State and Wyoming.

Norton won the Ducks' only title, taking

the 158-pound crown with a 15-3 decision over Boise State's Candon Tanaka. Sean Morgan also showed well at 158, finishing third. Troy Hughes also captured a third place victory by defeating Oregon State's Saunders Freed 9-8.

Kevin Keeney came up just short of a title, losing in the 167-pound final to Oregon State's Clint Wilson 8-7. Keeney and Wilson finished the third period tied at eight, but Wilson was awarded a point and the decision for holding a one-minute, ten-second riding time advantage.

"Kevin did a great job of coming back," Oregon head coach Ron Finley said. "He

was behind in points early and came back to take Wilson down three times in the third period. He just made his run a little bit too late."

The Ducks opened their dual-meet season with a doubleheader on Dec. 17, smashing UC Davis 28-6 and Portland State 35-6. Oregon split its first four matches against UC Davis before going on a six-match run to take the meet. Four of the Ducks' eight victories were captured by freshmen.

Perkins, Jeremy Ensrud (134), Jake Sellers (150), Norton, Kevin Keeney (167), Troy Hughes (177) and Polkinghorn all grabbed two victories for the Ducks.



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Men's Basketball: Milling takes over in the tough times of the second half

■ **Continued from Page 15A**

coming in here and winning the big games," Lawrence said.

Much to the delight of the boisterous Beaver fans, Oregon State came out of the gate quickly, leading 9-5 six minutes into the game. However, that was the last time the score would be close as the Ducks road the back of Lawrence, who came off the bench for the first time all season and sparked a 23-4 Oregon run by scoring 13 of his 20 points in that span, including three consecutive three-pointers on three consecutive trips down the court.

From that point on, the Beavers were merely pesky as they made runs at the Ducks' lead, including a 10-0 run to end the first half and pull within eight. But eventually they showed the youth and inexperience expected of a team that starts three freshman.

"I was pleased with our efforts offensively," said Oregon head

coach Jerry Green, whose team shot 58.1 percent from the field during the game, including 45 percent from three-point range. "But the [eight] we were up by going into the half was a little disappointing."

Lawrence agreed.

"Any time that we're up at halftime, we feel confident," he said. "But we felt we could have ended the first half a little bit better than we did."

In the second half, Milling took over, scoring all but five of his season-high 20 points.

"We seem to turn to Kyle when it gets tough," Wilkins said. "We pulled together as a team and then worked the ball in to Kyle. He is such a good player in the post that we go to him and feel confident that he'll make something happen."

"We really challenged Milling at the half to get his rear-end back down in there, and he respond-

ed," Green said, referring to how Milling would get the ball in the first half, move out of the low-post area and then try to work his way back in. "I thought in the second half, he was just a different player."

Oregon stays on the road this week, playing at Washington State on Thursday and at Washington Saturday before returning to McArthur Court for its Pac-10 home opener against Stanford a week from Thursday.

OREGON: Madden 3-8, 2-6 (8); Curry 4-8, 0-0 (9); Milling 8-13, 4-7 (20); Wilkins 4-8, 0-0 (11); Ramaker 2-5, 0-0 (4); McShane 2-5, 0-0 (4); Lawrence 8-11, 0-0 (20); Brown 4-6, 2-3 (11); Larry 1-1, 2-2 (4); McKelvey 1-1, 0-0 (2); Nelson 0-0, 0-2 (0).

OREGON STATE: Woods 3-8, 2-6 (5); Grady 7-11, 0-0 (16); C. Benjamin 6-15, 2-5 (15); Cunningham 4-10, 4-4 (12); Bickerstaff 2-4, 2-3 (6); Knight 1-2, 0-4 (2); Vaden 1-4, 0-0 (3); Petrovic 2-3, 0-0 (6); Rose 1-1, 1-1 (3); Edwards 0-1, 0-0 (0); S. Benjamin 0-2, 0-1 (0).

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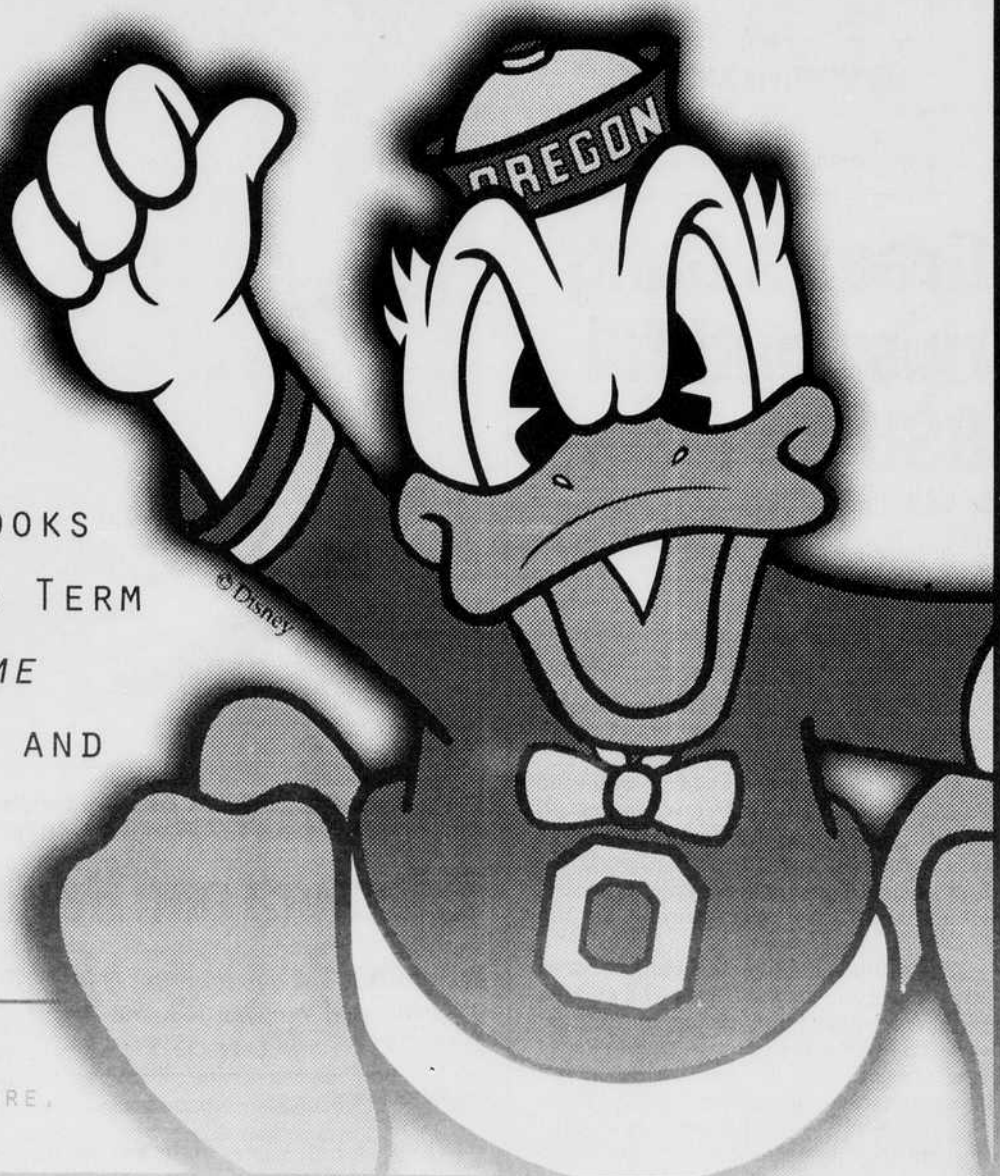
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