

Ducks gear up for the postseason in final weeks

■ **WRESTLING:** The team will have one final home meet against Boise State on Feb. 16

By Ryan Halvorsen
Sports Reporter

The Oregon wrestlers are starting to receive some of the respect that they deserve as the season winds down into its final three weeks. This week, eight Ducks are in the top four in their respective weight classes in the Pacific-10 Conference, and the team is ranked 22nd in the nation. Only Pac-10 leader Arizona State has as many wrestlers ranked in the conference.

"I think we've made some great gains," Oregon head coach Ron Finley said. "We came from a team that wasn't even ranked to a team that is 22nd in the country. We've done all of this and we've lost two starters

to injuries during the season. So I think that we've come a long way. I think we're doing a little bit better than we guessed we would at the beginning of the season."

Jumping into the rankings for the first time this season are Mike Meir, fourth at 118 pounds, who has come on strong late in the season; Sean Morgan, fourth at 158; Troy Hughes, fourth at 177; and Chael Sonnen, third at 190. The four that have been in the rankings since the beginning of the season, or close to it, are Scott Norton, who has been flawless in the Pac-10 at 150 and is currently first; Jeremy Ensrud, second at 134; David Perkins, third at 126; and Kevin Keeney, fourth at 167.

Although this weekend's match-up is with the NAIA Division's Southern Oregon, it's not going to be any picnic for the Ducks. Southern Oregon is ranked sixth in the

NAIA and is currently on a four-match winning streak — it also has the No. 1 NAIA wrestler in the nation at 142 pounds, Nick Cline. Last week, the Raiders secured their

27th consecutive winning dual meet season by beating Central Washington, ranked 10th in the NAIA with a 35-3 record. Despite the relatively easy win last year, Finley is expecting some good competition out of Southern Oregon.

"They are an outstanding team, and they've got at least five really good wrestlers — so it's going to be a close meet," Finley said. "Southern Oregon has always been a challenge for us, especially down there at their place. We must get in there and take six wins out of the match to beat them. We

certainly aren't going to walk over this team."

One win is all that coach Finley needs to reach a major milestone in his 27-year career at Oregon — 300 wins. Currently, not one of Finley's predecessors is even close to his record number of victories, as all of them combined are still short by 185 victories.

Looking down the road, Oregon will face Oregon State one last time in the regular season in a Valentine's Day meet in Corvallis. The Ducks have one final home meet against Boise State on Feb. 16 to close out the Pac-10 season.

"We need to look good in the matches remaining, and then we've got about a week and a half of good hard practice before the Pac-10 [tournament], to iron out any faults and to fine tune us to get us ready for the Pac-10's," Finley said.

The 'Gate Crasher' has plans to pull his antics one final time

■ **SNEAKER:** Bremen, who has taken to the field and court in numerous All-Star games, plans to do it again

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Hardly anyone noticed the lanky guy in the layup line at Richfield Coliseum during warmups for the 1981 NBA All-Star game.

The game is back in Cleveland on Sunday. Will the Gate Crasher be back, too?

Barry Bremen hasn't pulled one of his stunts since 1986, when he dressed up in a New York Mets uniform and took the field for the All-Star game at the Houston Astrodome. Los Angeles Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda chased him off the field.

Beware, sports fans. Bremen is planning a comeback.

"The finale is coming," said Bremen, who gained a measure of fame in the 1980s by sneaking into

Super Bowls, golf tournaments, World Series games — even accepting an Emmy Award and waving pompoms with the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders.

Although the 49-year-old Bremen won't reveal his final stunt, the All-Star game at Gund Arena on Sunday appears to be safe.

"I'm not going there," said Bremen, of West Bloomfield, Mich. "I have something I have to do this weekend."

Cleveland was the site of one of Bremen's first gigs — participating in warmups before the '81 NBA All-Star game. He wriggled his way into Richfield Coliseum, put on a Houston Rockets uniform and shot a few layups with the Western Conference All-Stars, including Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Moses Malone and George "Iceman" Gervin.

"Nobody even knew the difference," said Sheldon Ocker, who covered the game for the Akron Beacon Journal. "Here's this guy,

he's 6-3, in pretty good shape. He comes out in a Rockets uniform, and nobody's paying any attention."

"I think the players went along with it. I think the players helped him."

Sure enough, Bremen says, Otis Birdsong, with the Kansas City Kings at the time, helped him get into the arena.

"I'll never forget what Birdsong said," Bremen said. "He said, 'You and I are on the same team, and I don't even know who you is.'"

Inside help was Bremen's secret. Over the years, Bremen's accomplices included baseball players George Brett, Tommy John, Goose Gosage and Ozzie Smith; Dave Jennings and Brad Van Pelt in football; and the Golden Bear of golf, Jack Nicklaus.

By the time the Pontiac Silverdome hosted Super Bowl XVI between the San Francisco 49ers and Cincinnati Bengals in 1982, security officials were wise to Bre-

men's antics.

"I went to that Super Bowl, and they had his picture on every entrance," Ocker said. "It was like, 'If you see this guy,' and they had pictures of Barry dressed up like a chicken and all this stuff."

Despite having a police escort and being disguised as the San Diego Chicken, Bremen was not allowed into the building.

He says his hobby has caused only modest legal trouble — one fine that he can remember, for a few hundred dollars.

Bremen's list of stunts includes shagging flies in a New York Yankees uniform before the 1979 major league All-Star game in Seattle; showing up at home plate dressed as an umpire before a 1980 World Series game in Philadelphia between the Phillies and Royals; and playing a practice round with Fred Couples and Curtis Strange at the 1985 U.S. Open in Oakland Hills, Mich.

"You played in a U.S. Open?"

Bremen was asked.

"I played in three," he replied. There have been copycats. Scott Kerman of Los Angeles recently wrote a book about his own gate-crashing capers, "All Sold Out! How to Sneak Into Sporting Events and Concerts."

"He followed my career," Bremen said.

Bremen now runs a merchandising business that supplies discount stores like Wal-Mart. He said he "retired" from gate-crashing because he didn't want to be mistaken for the crazies who run onto sports fields for attention — or worse.

The shocking knife attack on Monica Seles in Germany in 1993, underscored that such events can turn tragic.

"Security is not good to people who break in," he said.

Bremen will only say that his last stunt, the grand finale, will happen around the time he turns 50 in June.

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