

Three Ducks post career bests

Tyron Manlove accepts an offer to play for the University of Colorado

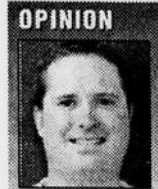
Even in darkness there were some bright spots. Despite back-to-back, blow-out losses to Arizona and Arizona State, three Oregon players registered career highs in those two games.

Junior forward Jonathan Nelson's 11 rebounds against Arizona was a team high and marked the fourth time this season that Nelson has topped his previous career-best rebound mark. Also against the Wildcats, sophomore forward A.D. Smith marked his career high in rebounds with nine.

Most noticeable, though, was the career-high 12 points freshman forward Flo Hartenstein put up against Arizona State on Saturday. Hartenstein is starting to come around for the Ducks. The big man is averaging 4.1 points and 3.8 rebounds (fifth best on the team) while playing only 15.8 minutes per game — fourth low-

est on the team in front of only Donte Quinine and the two walk-ons.

Hartenstein has also become a dominating presence under the basket for Oregon, using his size (6-foot-9, 255 pounds) to box out and set screens. In the last three games, Hartenstein has set the tone with his shot-blocking abilities,



Chris Hansen

where he is third on the team with eight. The most memorable being the rejection of Washington State forward Carlos Daniel's dunk attempt that brought the house down when the Cougars were at McArthur Court Jan. 17.

We hardly knew thee

Tyron Manlove, Oregon's most prized recruit during the Jerry Green era, has accepted an offer to play for the University of Colorado.

The former Portland high school star at Wilson dropped out of school at Oregon following the end of fall classes this school year. He never played in a game while at Oregon, redshirting last season and sitting out the nonconference games this season, opting instead to focus on academics.

Manlove was a must-have recruit for Green to establish himself as being able to recruit the state's best players. Since Manlove, Oregon has been successful at doing just that by getting Mike McShane (South Salem) in 1996 and Freddie Jones (Barlow) and Dennis Nathan (Gresham) committed for next season.

Dubious streak

The last three Oregon head coaches lost their first contest against Oregon State. But, unlike Green, Don Monson and Jim Haney, first-year head coach Ernie Kent will be playing his initial Civil War game at home.

Chris Hansen is the assistant sports editor for the Emerald

Wrestlers aim for No. 6 Arizona State

Oregon will face the Sun Devils in Tempe on Friday as part of a critical road trip

By Joel Hood
Sports Reporter

A year ago this month, the Green Bay Packers were celebrating a world championship, President Clinton's approval rating was soaring, and the Oregon wrestling team was beginning a critical road trip that would determine the fate of its season.

Here's to things that stay the same.

Oregon takes a critical, late-season road trip again — this time with the goal of dethroning Arizona State from atop the Pacific-10 Conference. The No. 20 Ducks, still soaring after last weekend's sweep of No. 25 Cal-State Bakersfield and Fresno State at McArthur Court, will take on the No. 6 Sun Devils in Tempe, Ariz., on Friday in the first meeting between the two schools this season.

Oregon (6-2 overall, 4-1 in Pac-10) has only beaten Arizona State once since 1974 and has dropped

11 straight matches to the defending conference champions, including last season's slim 20-18 loss at Mac Court.

Thank goodness for Brigham Young. The Ducks, who kick off their three-day road trip in Provo, Utah, on Thursday, have won 10 straight over the Cougars dating back to 1988.



WRESTLING

Ensrud file

A win against Brigham Young on Thursday would give Jeremy Ensrud 23

for the season and tie his total from last season, which ranked second on the team. Meanwhile, his climb up the Duck all-time wins list has landed the 134-pound senior seven wins shy of sixth place with at least five matches still to play.

Ensrud tied Curt Strahm for seventh place on the all-time list with a 5-1 win over Cal-State Bakersfield's Mike Mendoza last Friday. The victory was Ensrud's 92nd in his celebrated career.

Ensrud also accepted an invitation last week to attend the 1998 National Wrestling Coaches Association All-Star Wrestling Classic

at Buffalo's Alumni Arena on Feb. 2. The All-Star Classic is billed as the premier collegiate wrestling event in the nation, second only to the NCAA Championships. The tournament pits the nation's No. 1 and No. 2 wrestlers in each weight class in a dual-meet format.

Ensrud will match-up against Iowa's Mark Ironside in the 134-pound match on Monday.

Sonnen's stats

Chael Sonnen's impressive two-pin performance this weekend could not have come at a better time for the Ducks or head coach Ron Finley. In their second-to-last homestand of the season, Oregon's wrestlers knew the importance of keeping pace with the conference leaders before beginning their three-match road trip on Thursday.

"He is just amazing," said Finley following Sonnen's team-high 10th pin this season against Fresno State. "He is so aggressive. He just dives at his opponents and finds ways to bring them down."

Sonnen's 10 pins are one better than his total all of last season and rank eighth on the Ducks' single-season falls list.

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