

## Prep: Ducks have oral commitments from 17 players

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touchdowns in his senior season and is entertaining offers from UCLA, Arizona State, Washington State and Oregon. He visited the Oregon campus last weekend.

The Ducks' heartbreaking loss was that of high school star running back Willie Huarst, 5-10, 185, out of Compton, Calif., who orally committed to Washington. Overall, the Ducks have oral commitments from 17 players so

far, eight offensive, eight defensive and one special teams.

Look for more in-depth recruiting information in the Emerald early next week. The Fighting Ducks Review contributed to this report.

## Wrestlers face BYU to open 3-day road trip

The No. 20 Ducks have a 10-match winning streak over the Cougars

By Joel Hood  
Sports Reporter

If recent history means anything, the Oregon wrestling team could not be facing a better opponent than Brigham Young to begin its most critical stretch of the season.

The Ducks (6-2 overall, 4-1 in the Pacific-10 Conference) can extend their 10-match winning streak over the Cougars and improve to 4-1 on the road this season with a victory Thursday in Provo, Utah. The first of three road matches in three days for No. 20 Oregon.

Enough motivation, head coach Ron Finley said, to keep Oregon's wrestlers from looking past BYU to their key Pac-10 matchup with No. 6 Arizona State on Friday.

"This road trip should be a good test for this team," Finley said. "The rules changes last week diverted our focus a little bit, but I think we're back on track heading into the home stretch. I think that we're still making good progress."

Progress that has been slowed in recent weeks by the NCAA's new weigh-in rule but has come with the team's ability to bounce back after injuries this season.

John Taylor, the Pac-10's top-ranked wrestler at 118 pounds, has fought back from a serious knee injury that sidelined him for the Ducks' first six matches this season. Since his return, the senior has compiled an 8-4 overall record.

"John has really helped us solidify the lower weights," Finley said.

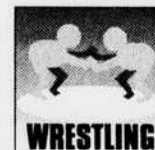
Despite having a fingernail ripped out against Fresno State last Saturday, Taylor will wrestle against BYU.

Jeremy Ensrud had to forfeit his 134-pound match against rival Oregon State two weeks ago, following a shoulder injury he sustained in practice. However, Ensrud came back to record two crucial wins during the Ducks' homestand last weekend.

Along with the injuries, several Oregon wrestlers have had to battle flu and strep throat viruses throughout the past four weeks.

This doesn't sound like a team poised to make a run at defending conference champion Arizona State, or does it?

"I think we're peaking at the right point in the season," 150-pound Daryl Christian said. "It's just a matter of putting it all together during the match."



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## Hockey finishes season with wins in Washington

The Ducks defeated the Washington State Cougars 6-3 on Friday and 7-3 on Saturday

By Tim Pyle and Brian Deka  
Freelance Sports Reporters

Two pivotal wins over Washington State last weekend provided the Oregon Club Sports hockey team with momentum heading into the postseason.

The Ducks finished their regular season by beating the Cougars 6-4 on Friday night and 7-3 on Saturday. All Cougar hopes of earning a playoff berth were destroyed with the losses.

Oregon's line of center Eric Williams and wingers Ezra Louthis and Ari Friedman provided eight goals total in the two games. Williams tallied five goals and one assist, Louthis five assists and one goal and Friedman two goals and two assists.

Goalies Josh Hardin, who played on Friday, and Stuart Robertson, who played on Saturday, both played particularly well, said head coach Geoff Norman.

Washington State dropped to 7-7 in the Pacific-8 Hockey Conference, while Oregon improved to 9-5 in the conference (10-6-1 overall). The Ducks, who were tied with the Cougars for fourth place prior to the games, now hold fourth place in the conference outright.

Although the Ducks are already guaranteed a spot in the four-team Pac-8 Tournament because they are the host, Norman said the victories were important for the team's momentum.

Oregon also still has an outside chance of climbing in the standings, depending on the results of games between California and third-place UCLA this weekend.

### Water polo third

The Club Sports water polo

team finished third in the Seattle Otters International Open last weekend.

Nicole Waggoner, Renee Gauthier and Sarah Federspiel were among the top performers for the Ducks.

Waggoner, a first-time goalie, and Gauthier, who scored two goals in her first tournament, were both outstanding, said head coach Scott McCarty.

Federspiel was Oregon's top player, scoring seven goals and providing solid defense throughout the two-day tournament.

McCarty said. The 10-team tournament was a co-ed tournament, but McCarty said he didn't know that until it was too late to put together a full co-ed team.

Oregon only had two men on the team, McCarty said, adding that the other teams consisted of a balanced mix of men and women.

The Ducks finished with a 3-2 record in the tournament. The next tournament for the water polo team will be in Arizona in mid-February.

**Skiing teams compete in Idaho**  
The Club Sports alpine skiing women's team twice finished fifth, and the men's team once finished sixth in a three-day tournament in McCall, Idaho, last weekend.

**Sailing team a no-show**  
The Club Sports sailing team may be banned from tournaments in California because it did not show for a tournament it had signed up for, coordinator Peter McCormick said.

"We're in a difficult position because the team will probably be issued a probation for not appearing in a tournament in Los Angeles," McCormick said.