



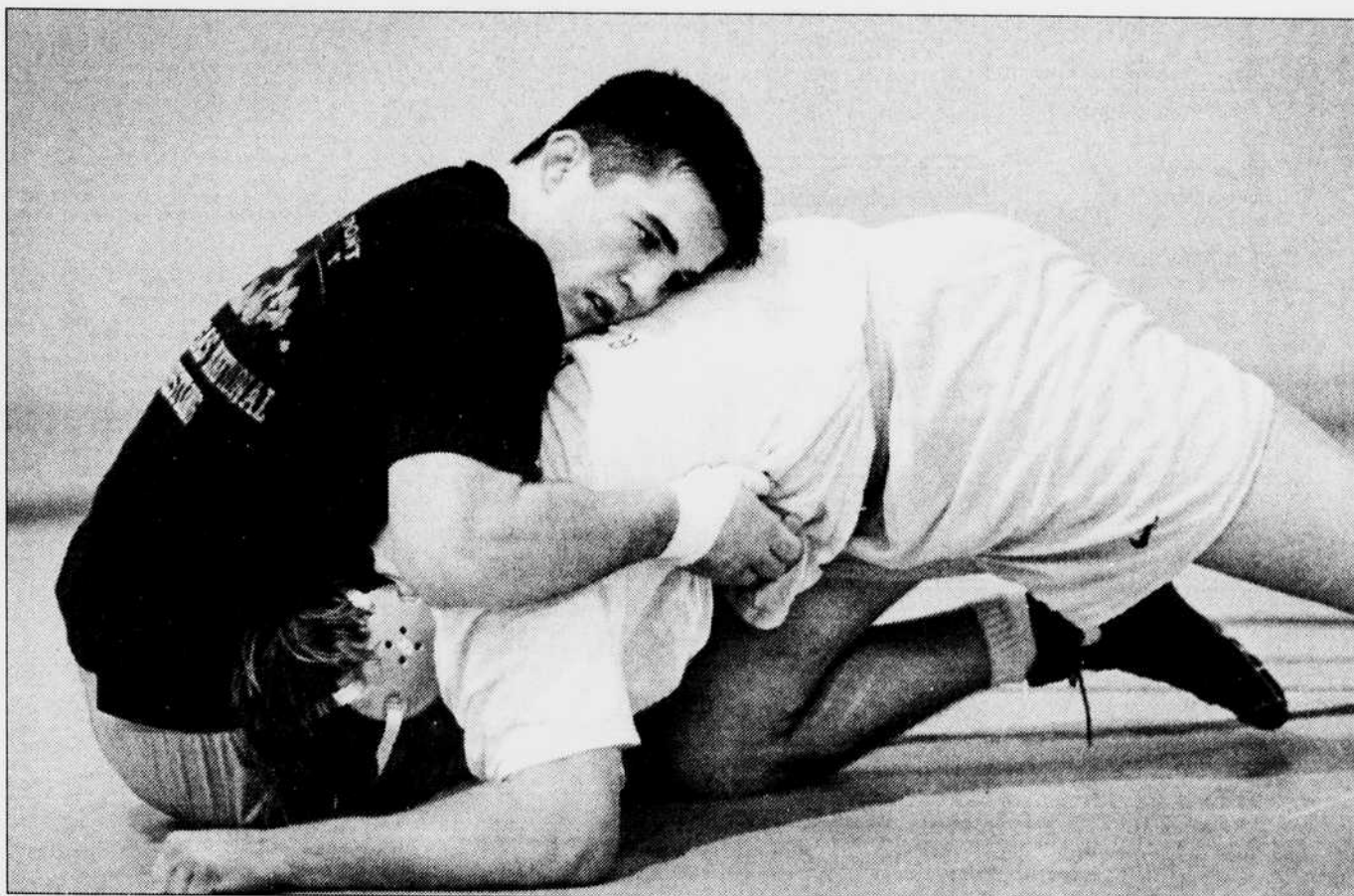
NBA
Seattle at Houston,
TNT (27), 5 p.m.

SPORTS

Oregon Daily
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"To me that's the point of wrestling, to pin the guy. I think I look for it a little more than other wrestlers."

Chael Sonnen
UO wrestler



Chael Sonnen has been one of the Ducks' most consistent performers this season, according to head coach Ron Finley.

RYAN FRANK/Emerald

SLICK AND QUICK

By Joel Hood
Sports Reporter

Don't ask him to explain it, but Chael Sonnen might just be the Pacific-10 Conference's most dominant wrestler this season.

Consider these numbers: Sonnen ranks third in the conference at 190 pounds, but has already beaten No. 1 Shane Zajac from Oregon State twice this season. Sonnen's 12 pins lead Oregon and already rank fifth on the Ducks' all-time single-season falls list. He has recorded four crushing pins in his last six dual matches alone.

Just don't ask him to explain it. "I'd have to say I'm a slick and quick wrestler," Sonnen says. "In high school I was more rough and tough. When I got to Oregon, I was mostly crash and burn, but the coaches have helped me a lot with that. For awhile it was pin or

Sophomore Chael Sonnen's 12 pins this season rank fifth on the Ducks' all-time single-season list

get pinned; now I'm just slick and quick."

Quick probably doesn't do Sonnen justice. Nine of his 12 pins this season have come in the first period. And of the matches that go to the second period, most of the time the scores are so lopsided that Sonnen's opponent would rather he pin them than have to endure three more minutes of pounding.

Sonnen's quickness was never more apparent than in the critical five-match stretch following the Ducks' disappointing loss to rival Oregon State. Oregon, which had

just dropped its first conference match of the season, faced a pair of Pac-10 opponents at home, then left for Provo, Utah, to embark on a three-match road trip in the next three days.

A slick curl with the right leg quickly dropped Cal-State Bakersfield's Tito Ortiz just 45 seconds into the first period of the Ducks' first home match. A day later, Sonnen used a similar move, followed by a forearm cross with his left elbow to upend Fresno State's Donny Rider just 35 seconds into the first period. Sonnen's third straight pin, which occurred days later in Utah, was of the knock-down, drag-out variety, 2:37 into the second round. That time the pin wasn't quick, just decisive.

"To me that's the whole point of wrestling, to pin the

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Win over Huskies puts Olson in select company

BASKETBALL



Men's
Pac-10
Notes

by Rob Moseley

Arizona's sweep of the Washington schools last weekend did more than just maintain the Wildcats' position in the nation's top five. The drubbing of the Huskies gave Arizona its 11th consecutive 20-win season, as well as making Lute Olson one of just seven head coaches to record a 20-win season 20 times in a career. The win over the Cougars gave the Wildcats their 1,300th all-time victory.

Double-doubles

A.D. Smith's double-double against Southern California was the first by an Oregon player this season. UCLA holds the Pacific-10 Conference team lead with 17 double-doubles this season. Arizona State is second with 16, and both USC and Washington have 13.

Washington State's Carlos Daniel shares the individual Pac-10 Conference lead with Washington's Todd MacCulloch, with each recording 11 double-doubles this season.

National honors

Finalists for the Naismith Award as college basketball player of the year were announced recently, and five Pac-10 repre-

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UCLA won't end Stanford home streak

Much to the chagrin of Oregon fans, UCLA's convincing 82-54 win over the Ducks last Friday helped set up one of the more intriguing matchups in the Pacific-10 Conference this season.

A few different streaks will be on the line when UCLA (13-5 overall, 9-2 Pac-10) travels to Stanford (13-5, 9-1) Thursday. The Bruins trail the first-place Cardinal by one game in the conference standings.

Something will have to give in this one. The Bruins are undefeated (5-0) on the road in conference play, while Stanford is a perfect 5-0 at home. The biggest streak on the line, though, is the Cardinal's 65-game home-court conference winning streak. The Cardinal hasn't lost a conference game at home since the 1990-91 season.

Stanford is the hottest team in the Pac-10 right now, having won seven straight games and 11 of its last 12.

But UCLA is a close second. The Bruins have won five straight and nine of their last 10 games.

The game likely will decide whether the Bruins have a shot at the Pac-10 title, or if the Cardinal will win a fourth straight conference crown.

Some may say the Bruins could pull off the upset, but let's be realistic. Stanford just doesn't lose at home in Pac-10 play. Don't bet on things to change.

In fact, look for the Cardinal to send the Bruins back down to earth rather convincingly.

Dion, Washington survive collision

A scary incident took place near the end of the Oregon game at Southern California on Sunday when Oregon guard Lindsey Dion violently collided forehead to forehead with Trojan forward Tiffany Washington.

Both players suffered visible gashes on their foreheads that required stitches after the game.

A spokesman with the USC athletic department said Washington received 11 stitches over her right eyebrow.

Dion's cut above her left eyebrow took nine stitches to close, according to a spokeswoman with the Oregon athletic department. She is listed as doubtful for Oregon's game on Thursday.

Neither player suffered a concussion, officials said.

Alex Pond is a sports reporter for the Emerald. His Pac-10 notes appear every Tuesday in the Emerald.

BASKETBALL



Women's
Pac-10
Notes

by Alex Pond