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# Wrestlers place 19th in Illinois

*The Midlands Tournament pitted the Ducks against six of the nation's top-10 teams*

By **Scott Pesznecker**  
*Oregon Daily Emerald*

Sean Morgan finished fifth overall and Kenny Cox and Chael Sonnen both finished in seventh place to lead the Oregon wrestling team to a 19th-place finish at the Midlands Tournament in Evanston, Ill., on Dec. 30.

The tournament played host to six of the top 10 teams in the country, including No. 3 Iowa, No. 7 Illinois and No. 10 Northwestern. More than 50 teams were in competition.

Morgan made it to the semifinals of the 165-pound weight class before losing to Chad Liott of Rider 4-2 in overtime. Liott was able to escape a takedown in overtime that would have given Morgan the win.

Cox, who competed at the 133-pound weight class on Dec. 19 against Southern Oregon in Ash-

land, wrestled at 125 pounds and lost his third match of the tournament to fourth-seeded Tom Combs of Eastern Illinois 19-10.

Entering the tournament as Oregon's highest seeded wrestler, fourth-seeded Chael Sonnen lost to No. 6 Zachery Thompson of Iowa State 3-2 in the semifinals.

"We were very sluggish out here," Oregon head coach Chuck Kearney said in a released statement. "We didn't compete like we're capable of, and in some bouts, [Oregon] just didn't pull the trigger. However, there were a lot of positives we gained from this tournament. Morgan and Cox both wrestled well. Cox wrestled as well as he has in an Oregon uniform all week."

Kearney said the team learned another lesson from the tournament.

"As a team, we learned that we need to refocus before we get back to the dual season and recommit to

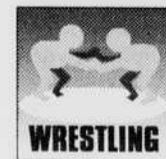
the hard work and intensity that will make us successful in the Pacific-10 Conference," he said.

Earlier last month, the Ducks crushed UC Davis at home 38-6, recording three pins in four matches, courtesy of Morgan, Sonnen and 174-pound Sean O'Rourke. Oregon wrestlers won every weight class and allowed just one takedown in the entire match.

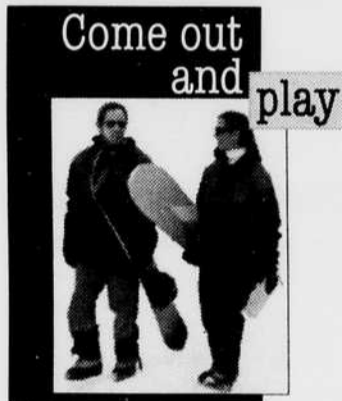
One week later, Southern Oregon took UC Davis' place as Oregon's punching bag. The Ducks won seven of 10 matches and rolled over the Raiders 25-8.

Many Oregon wrestlers posted impressive wins over their opponents. The biggest upset of the evening came when stalling penalties forced Sonnen into overtime against the Raiders' Jamie Haddon. Sonnen eventually lost 4-2 in overtime.

Oregon (2-0) will jump into its Pac-10 season next week when it faces Stanford on Jan. 6, Cal-Poly SLO on Jan. 8 and Cal-State Bakersfield on Jan. 9.



# Physical Education

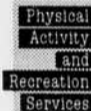


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Winter Term 1999

# Dolphins face long road to Super Bowl

By **Steven Wine**  
*Associated Press*

DAVIE, Fla. — Even eternal optimist Jimmy Johnson admits his Miami Dolphins face long odds in the second round of the playoffs.

Jacksonville's 25-10 victory Sunday over New England determined the pairings for next weekend's AFC games, and the Dolphins will play Saturday at Denver. That means Miami must contend with the well-rested defending Super Bowl champions, a hostile crowd and winter weather.

And the Dolphins must do it without their only Pro Bowl player.

Defensive tackle Tim Bowens underwent surgery Sunday to repair a torn tendon in his arm, and he'll miss the rest of the postseason.

Bowens was hurt in Saturday's 24-17 wild-card victory over the Buffalo Bills, Miami's first postseason win in four years. With Denver looming, the thrill of victory didn't last long.

"We know it's going to be an uphill battle playing on the road when they have two weeks to prepare and a bye and an opportunity to get their team healthy," Johnson said.

The Dolphins beat the Broncos 31-21 two weeks ago, but Denver

had already clinched home-field advantage for the playoffs and had little incentive to win. And that game was in Miami.

The Dolphins' last road victory in the postseason came 25 years ago against Minnesota in the Super Bowl. Miami has since lost eight postseason road games.

The loss of Bowens hurts the run defense just as it gears up to deal with 2,000-yard rusher Terrell Davis. The Dolphins were already shorthanded in the front four because end Jason Taylor was sidelined for the season by a broken collarbone last week.



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