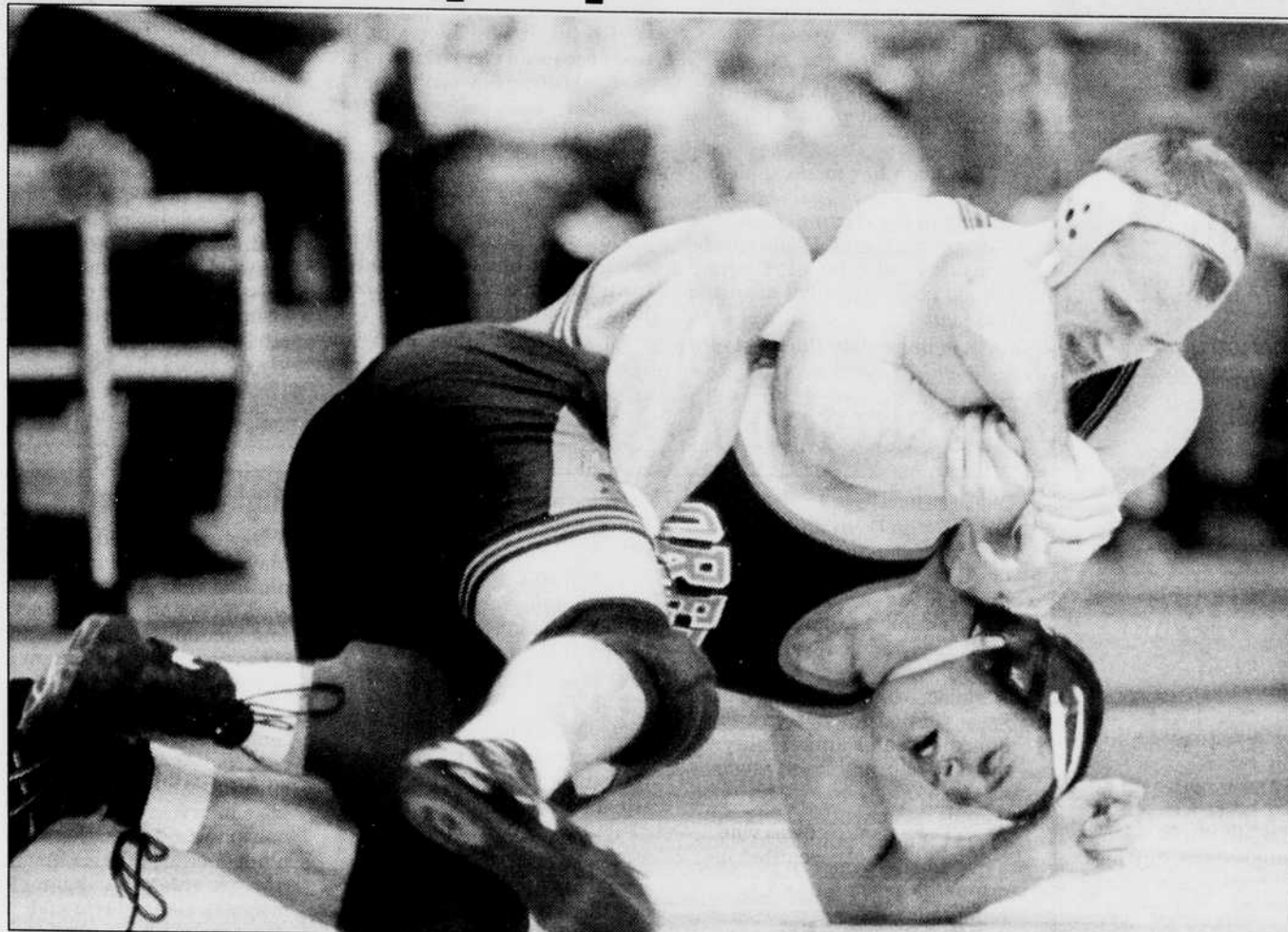


SPORTS

WEDNESDAY
January 6, 1999Best Bet
NCAA Basketball
North Carolina at
Florida State
4 p.m., ESPN

Wrestlers prepare to duel with Stanford

Oregon senior Sean Morgan holds down Oregon State's 165-pound Isaac Wood in the Ducks' 22-15 victory against the Beavers at McArthur Court last February. *Nick Medley/Emerald*

By Scott Pesznecker

Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon wrestling team left Eugene this morning for Palo Alto, Calif., to compete against Stanford tonight in the first dual meet of a four-day road trip. The Ducks will then face Cal Poly-SLO on Jan. 8, and Cal State Bakersfield on Jan. 9.

The team will carry with it a 2-0 record in dual meets this season, but also the knowledge that its most difficult part of the schedule still lies ahead.

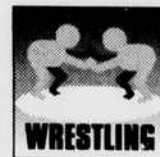
"What we've got to look at isn't the opponent as much as it is ourselves," Oregon head coach Chuck Kearney said. "At the Midlands Tournament [on Dec. 29-30] we wrestled flat and without emotion. We need to show up and be ready to compete. If we do that, good things will happen."

And good things have happened for Oregon thus far. The team routed UC Davis on Dec. 12 and Southern Oregon on Dec. 19 to open its dual meet season.

"This trip will be a good indicator," Oregon wrestler Kenny Cox said. "But no matter how things go right now, we're going to peak at the right time, and we're going to do well at the national tournament."

However, Kearney said the Cardinal has traditionally wrestled well against the Ducks, and his team must be ready.

"Many of [the Stanford wrestlers] are

Turn to **WRESTLING**, Page 8

League season tips off with a slew of close match-ups

Opinion



Rob Moseley

Widely regarded as the top overall men's basketball conference in the nation, the Pacific-10 Conference played its first set of league games Saturday through Monday.

The conference's balance was displayed immediately, as upsets and close games were plentiful.

The only two games decided by more than 10 points were No. 4 Stanford's (12-2 overall, 2-0 Pac-10) two decisive home wins over Oregon State and Oregon.

Cougars claw Huskies

Most shocking, perhaps, was Washington State's 72-71 victory over rival Washington at the Spokane Arena in Spokane, Wash.

The Cougars (7-5, 1-0) were predicted to finish at or very near the bottom of the conference, while the Huskies (7-4, 0-1) return most of their 1997 team that advanced to the NCAA Tournament's Sweet Sixteen.

Washington State guard Jan-Michael Thomas saved his only field goal of the game for the most important of

times.

With three seconds remaining and his team trailing by two, Thomas nailed a three-pointer to secure the Cougar victory.

Although Washington was without guard Donald Watts, Washington State's win still marked a major upset and highlighted the Huskies' struggles to regain last season's tournament form.

Center Todd MacCulloch produced more fouls (five) than points (two), as he fouled out in just 10 minutes.

If the Cougars do indeed still fall to the depths of the Pac-10 as predicted, at least they already have more conference wins than their football counterparts, who went winless in league play.

The reload

UCLA (10-2, 2-0) and Arizona (9-1, 1-1), two of the Pac-10's traditional powers, have rosters filled with underclassmen this season.

The Bruin youngsters prevailed in the first meeting between the two teams this season, an 82-75 UCLA win in Los Angeles on Saturday.

The then-No. 10 Bruins were led by explosive point

Turn to **BASKETBALL**, Page 8

Stanford runs into roadblock with loss against Oregon

After dominating the Pacific-10 Conference by winning nine titles in the last 10 years, the Stanford Cardinal's reign appears to have come to a screeching halt.

That's not to say that the Cardinal have completely fallen off the map, but without a single senior in the starting line up, it is doubtful that Stanford will dominate the Pac-10 this season.

The Cardinal slipped to 5-8 overall and 1-1 in the Pac-10 when they fell to Oregon 63-59 at McArthur Court on Monday for the first time in 11 years. This could be a sign the rest of the teams in the Pac-10 are ready to get the Stanford monkey off their backs.

With the exception of Arizona, which beat the Cardinal by one point last season, the rest of the teams in the conference have not had a victory in at least five seasons. Washington State has never beaten them and the closest they came was a five-point loss in the 1997-98 season.

However, Stanford did show signs of dominance in the preseason by knocking off then-No. 1 Purdue, 73-72, on Nov. 22, at Maples Pavilion. But Pac-10 play is different

and Stanford appears just as vulnerable as any team in the conference.

Dion Pac-10 Player of the Week

Sophomore Lindsey Dion shot 48 percent from the field, 67 percent from three point range and 86 percent from the free-throw line in Oregon's three victories against Portland, California and Stanford last week.

Dion was named Pac-10 player of the week after playing a pivotal role in the Ducks' Pac-10 opener. She helped lead Oregon to a sweep of California and Stanford. With four seconds remaining in Monday's game against Stanford, Dion sank two free throws to put Oregon up by four points, eliminating Stanford's chances of beating the Ducks for the 23rd consecutive time.

The 5-foot-10 forward started for just the second time when she took the floor against the Cardinal and led the team with 14 points, tallying two of the Ducks' three pointers and shooting a perfect six of six from the free throw line. Defensively, Dion also led the team with four

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Opinion



Allison Ross