

Wrestling

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record of 9-3.

Kearney also said that heavy-weight Kevin Kearney will have his hands full with the 6-foot-10, 285-pound Gan McGee.

"[McGee] will be the first real big man that Kevin has wrestled," Kearney said. "It will be a challenge to see how he handles that, and the outcome will be important to how we do as a team."

After wrestling Cal Poly SLO, the Ducks will ready themselves to face Cal State Bakersfield, a team that Kearney calls "one of the five legitimately tough teams" in the Pacific-10 Conference.

"Bakersfield is tough," Kearney said. "They're always in good shape, and they're hard-nosed."

We must step it up and get after them."

The No. 15 Roadrunners have found success early this season, beating the Beavers, the Boiler-makers, Wisconsin and Northern Iowa. Kearney said this meet will be one of the toughest tests for Oregon this season.

Kearney will again find himself in the spotlight at heavyweight. His opponent will be Stephen Neal, the defending national champion. Neal recently won his 60th consecutive match.

"Kearney will be wrestling the top heavyweight in the country," Kearney said. "It will be important for the other guys on the team to step it up and help out."

There will be a number of other

important matchups for Oregon against Bakersfield. Kenny Cox, still new to the 125-pound weight class, will wrestle No. 11 Moses Delfin. Sean Morgan will wrestle No. 19 Andy Varner at 165 pounds, and Doug Lee will wrestle Lionel Halsey at 184 pounds.

Chael Sonnen, who has wrestled well in Oregon's last two meets after struggling early in the season, will wrestle No. 16 Raphael Davis at 197 pounds.

If the Ducks beat Cal Poly SLO and Cal State Bakersfield, the team will have a 5-0 dual-meet record. Asked if that goal places any pressure on the team, Kearney said he tries not to think about it.

Riley to be Chargers head coach

By Bernie Wilson
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Mike Riley got Oregon State headed back toward respectability, and now he'll try to do the same thing for the San Diego Chargers.



Riley, 45, signed a guaranteed five-year contract on Thursday, becoming the Chargers' fourth coach in four years. This is his first NFL job, and he inherits a team that hasn't had a winning record in three seasons. Riley will make \$750,000 a year, more than five times his Oregon State salary of \$135,000.

Riley was 8-14 in two seasons

at Oregon State, which one of his predecessors called "a coach's graveyard." The same might be said of the Chargers, who were 5-11 in 1998.

Riley said he took the job for the same reason he left his job as Southern Cal's offensive coordinator to take the Oregon State job in December 1996.

"There's a great opportunity to improve and to work to get better, get more wins. That's what we're all after," said Riley, who grew up in Corvallis. "I decided that this may be the greatest opportunity in my career, and one that I'd really like to try. So I took that opportunity."

Riley was introduced at a news conference under a big, white party tent set up right next to the swimming pool at the Chargers'

practice complex. Only three players attended. Troubled quarterback Ryan Leaf wasn't among them, but Riley said he met Leaf earlier.

Owner Alex Spanos said he's never been as impressed with a coach as he was when he first met Riley 10 days ago in Palm Springs, Calif.

Riley soon learned of Spanos' famous impatience when the owner said: "Mike Riley, we're looking to you to take us back to the Super Bowl."

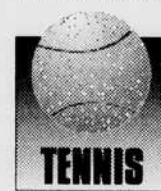
The Chargers' lone Super Bowl appearance was four years ago, and they've gone 26-39 since.

"I truly think this is a great fit for me, and I'm very appreciative of these guys believing that I can do it," Riley said. "I'm anxious to do that."

Pac-10 tournament last stop before season play begins

By Mirjam Swanson
for the Emerald

For the first time in more than a year, each member of the Oregon women's tennis team should be healthy for its first competition of the new year at the Pacific-10 Conference Indoor Tournament in Seattle this weekend.



This will be the Ducks' last individual competition before they open their regular Pac-10

schedule on Jan. 31.

All of the Pac-10 will be represented at the tournament, so in addition to playing No. 4 California and No. 5 Stanford, the Ducks will also face No. 12 Arizona State, No. 13 Southern California and No. 24 Arizona.

Two players from each school will compete in each of the tournament's four flights, and six players from each team will play in three flights of doubles competition.

Alina Wygonowska, a senior who starred for Oregon last season but suffered from tendinitis this past fall, will join redshirt freshman Sarah Colistro in the Flight One sin-

gles draw.

Colistro has dealt with injury as well. Her 1998 season ended when she tore her hamstring just days after she won the Flight Two consolation round of last year's Pac-10 Indoors.

Wygonowska will also play in the Flight One doubles competition, pairing up for the first time with freshman Janice Nyland, who is already one of Oregon's best doubles players.

"We're trying to mix and match," head coach Jack Griffin said. "We have new players in the line up from last year. Janice has really proven herself as one of our top doubles players, so we're trying to find the right combination to play with her."

Griffin has realistic goals for his team this weekend. He hopes Oregon will learn something after seeing the highest levels of collegiate play.

"It should be fun," Griffin said. "I think that regardless of the results we have this coming weekend, we're going to see some success this year. [The tournament is] going to be real high-caliber, so it's really good for us to get some matches in as we prepare for the end of January."



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