

Wrestling

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NCAA rules violations regarding weight-loss methods at Oregon started following the rule change in January 1998.

"I used plastics all year, even at the Pacific-10 Conference championships" six weeks after the rule change, Perkins said. "It was definitely an issue — not having time to adjust."

A current Oregon wrestler confirmed that at least one other Oregon wrestler used a rubber suit at the Pac-10 championships last year.

A former wrestler doubts "there is a team in the country that follows the rules."

If caught using illegal means once this year, a wrestler is suspended for one match. If caught a second time, the wrestler is suspended for the rest of the season.

After learning of the allegations Thursday afternoon, Gary Gray, an associate athletic director who

oversees the wrestling program, said he plans to investigate the matter.

Issues of NCAA violations were brought to light after Kearney suspended wrestler Dusty Roberts in early December for insubordination. In an e-mail to University President Dave Frohnmayer on Tuesday, Roberts' parents made the preceding allegations in addition to other accusations.

The Emerald also received a copy of the letter.

"The sport thought it was time to clean itself up," said Kevin Roberts, Dusty Roberts' brother and a two-time All-American at Oregon in 1994 and 1995. "[Dusty] told me before he got dismissed that people were still doing it and that Coach turned a blind eye."

At least one other current Oregon wrestler has confirmed that story.

"All the teams do it," the wrestler said. "We have guys who do it right in the Casanova Center. If the coach

walks in, he walks out and pretends he doesn't see anything."

After denying the allegations on Thursday, Kearney maintained that "the responsibility is on the wrestler" to adhere to the NCAA rules.

Mike Moyer, chair of the NCAA wrestling committee, said he has been pleased with the positive response from coaches and athletes about the rule changes, but he admits stopping the use of past weight-loss methods that are now prohibited is a challenge.

"To some degree, the difficult thing is it's difficult to change 100 years of tradition in 100 days," Moyer said. "From what I've talked to coaches, the tradition is changing."

One former Oregon wrestler compared the midseason NCAA rule changes on weight loss to the federal government putting an immediate ban on smoking in the United States.

Tuition

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attract new faculty and help retain those who already work here.

Bill Ryan, associate professor of journalism and communication — and a father of four — said a break in tuition would be a huge benefit to University employees.

"It makes great economic sense to me to offer an economic remission program," he said. "We're not exactly brimming over with these types of benefits or perks."

Ryan said he has even considered leaving the University because no such program has ever been offered.

"I think it would be a smart thing for the University to do, not only for recruitment but in retention of faculty, too," Ryan said.

Doug Dimartile, a senior environmental studies major, said families usually benefit from one another's jobs and affiliations.

"Along with any job comes benefits, and in this case those would be the benefits," Dimartile said.

Another student, Laura Breshears, a junior biochemistry major, disagreed.

"It seems a little unfair that you would get a break because your

parents or your spouse worked here," Breshears said. "It seems like special treatment, almost."

Breshears suggested that tuition breaks be made based on income and need, because it is expensive for anyone to attend college.

Lorraine Davis, vice provost for academic affairs, said the proposal is worthy of consideration and analysis.

"On one hand, it could be a great benefit, but we need to determine the cost and the benefits," she said. "It's unknown whether that would help people come, stay or leave."

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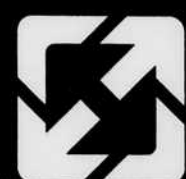
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