

SPORTS

Friday
February 26, 1999Best Bet
Professional rodeo
Wrangler World of Rodeo
9 p.m., ESPN

CIVIL WAR

Ducks aim to solidify standing

Oregon needs a home victory over Oregon State to keep its postseason hopes intact

By Tim Pyle
Oregon Daily Emerald

With four wins out of its last five games, the Oregon men's basketball team has rekindled postseason speculation.

A second straight Civil War loss Saturday at McArthur Court against Oregon State at 5:35 p.m. would probably bring such optimism to an instantaneous halt.

On Tap

WHAT: Civil War
WHO: Oregon (14-10, 6-9) vs. Oregon State (12-12, 6-9)
WHEN: Saturday at 5:35 p.m.
WHERE: McArthur Court

Unlike the Ducks (14-10 overall, 6-9 Pacific-10 Conference), the Beavers (12-12, 6-9) have seen their fortunes sag in the second half of the conference season, losing five of their last six games by an average of more than 18 points per defeat.

A Pac-10 road record of 0-8 is a further sign of distress for Oregon State.

The Beavers managed to stop a 10-game losing streak to Oregon on Jan. 30, when Oregon State held the Ducks to just 16 first-half points in forging a 48-45 win at Gill Coliseum.

In that game, the Beavers were led by post Jason Heide's 13 points on five-of-seven shooting and seven rebounds. Forward Clifton Jones chipped in eight points, 10 rebounds and a career-high six blocked shots.

And Deandra Tanner, Oregon State's star sophomore point guard who has been mentioned in the same breath as former Beaver great Gary Payton, put some final touches on the victory with key plays down the stretch. Tanner did so despite struggling to just nine points on three-for-12 shooting and two assists vs. three turnovers overall.

"He's been better, I think, overall late in the game than he has sometimes in the course of the game," Oregon State head coach Eddie Payne said.

But for the Beavers to beat Oregon for just the third time in the last 14 meetings and simultaneously subside their road woes, Tanner will assuredly have to pro-



Nick Medley/Emerald

Star point guard Deandra Tanner hopes to drive the Beavers past Terik Brown and the Ducks again.

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Ducks focus on tonight's Civil War

The No. 18 Ducks control their own destiny in the Pac-10 title race

By Joel Hood
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon women's basketball team has never won more than 22 games in a season. It has also never won a Pacific-10 Conference Championship.

The Ducks have a chance to set one milestone and take a large step toward the second tonight in Corvallis.

Just three games shy of its first conference title in school history, No. 18 Oregon (22-4 overall, 13-2 in the Pac-10) knows it controls its own destiny down the stretch.

A half-game up on UCLA, if the Ducks can win their remaining three games the championship will be theirs—so will an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament and a first-round game at McArthur Court.

Even though Oregon State occupies the conference cellar with a 3-12 record, Oregon head coach Jody Runge knows the importance of tonight's game.

"We're looking forward to a real physical battle," Runge said. "When we face them, the stats really do go out the window."

The Beavers (11-13 overall) have lost five games in a row and nine of their last 10. But 6-foot-4 junior Sissel Pierce has been a force at the center position, averaging more than 10 points and five rebounds per game.

Oregon's players said they are preparing for a tough, defensive struggle, not unlike the Civil War game on Jan. 29 that the Ducks won 59-46. In that game, Oregon hit a season-low 12 shots from the field.

"We need to prepare for rebounding, for the press and zone defense," forward Angelina Wolverter said. "We haven't been shutting down anyone's zone or full-court press. But we're winning games and I think we've done a sufficient job."

"I think if we can keep Sissel off the boards she's not going to be a factor."

Even more impressive than the Ducks' eight-game win streak, the second longest



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UO to wrestle the best in Pac-10

The Ducks have four wrestlers with the potential to capture conference titles

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

For the first time this season, the Oregon wrestling team has a chance to show the Pacific-10 Conference what the Ducks are made of.

Gone is the dual-meet season, in which the Ducks compiled a frustrating 4-10 record and lost seven meets by nine points or less.

Now the tables have turned. Instead of competing in a match that revolves around the team, the Ducks will wrestle Saturday at the Pac-10 Championships in Palo Alto, Calif., a tournament that highlights the skill of the individual.

"This is when the individuals shine," Oregon head coach Chuck Kearney said. "This is when the kids have an opportunity to go out there and win their Pac-10 titles."

If national rankings mean anything, the Ducks have plenty of talent in four upper-weight wrestlers: Chael Sonnen, Sean Morgan, Daryl Christian and Doug Lee. Kearney said he would not be surprised if each of those

wrestlers earned Pac-10 titles.

After struggling at the start of the season, Sonnen, ranked No. 8, will travel to Palo Alto riding a nine-match winning streak. Sonnen is the top-ranked wrestler in the Pac-10 at 197 pounds, and his next victory will be his 70th as a Duck.

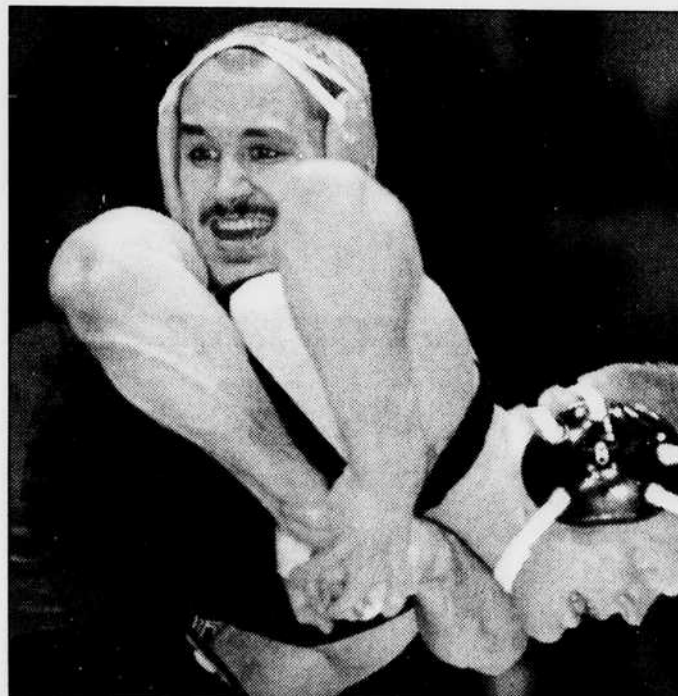


During Wednesday's practice, the usually laid-back Sonnen talked seriously about the Pac-10 Championships. He said he is ready to compete, and he is not going to let his No. 1 Pac-10 ranking go to his head.

"It's going to be kind of nice, but I'm going to be in a room with nine of the toughest guys in the Pac-10, and they'll all want to kill me," Sonnen said. "I'm going to be out there ready to defend myself, because they're going to be coming at me."

Morgan won last season's Pac-10 title at 158 pounds and will try to repeat his performance on Saturday in the 165-pound weight class. Morgan, ranked No. 9, will have to overcome Boise State's No. 2 Kirk White. On Feb. 6 in dual-meet competition, White barely beat Morgan by scoring a controversial takedown in the first

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Nick Medley/Emerald

Oregon senior Sean Morgan hangs on against Brigham Young's Kris West.