

With a 16-3 record, junior Doug Lee is making a convincing case to repeat as Pac-10 champ in the 184-pound weight class.

Emerald Archives

Wrestlers ready for pair of meets

■ This weekend, Oregon travels to Portland State and then tangles with Simon Fraser in Eugene

By Brett Williams
Oregon Daily Emerald

Following some impressive individual performances last week at the Great Plains Invitational, the Oregon wrestling team attempts to improve its record at Portland State Saturday and at home against Simon Fraser on Sunday at 3 p.m.

The Ducks (2-1 Pacific-10 Conference, 2-2 overall) are coming off a tournament in which Oregon head coach Chuck Kearney believes two of his wrestlers gave the best performances in their college careers. Freshman Tony Overstake finished third at 149 pounds, and redshirt freshman Eric Webb placed fifth in the heavyweight division.

Kearney said his young team is coming along fine at this point in the season.

"We are where we want to be, and maybe a touch ahead," said Kearney, in his second season as Ducks head coach. "We need to find more consistency, but we're ahead of where I thought we would be six weeks ago."

One Oregon wrestler who is exceeding expectations every match is sophomore Eugene Harris. After competing at Lassen Community College in Susanville, Calif., last season, Harris is quickly adapting to the Division I-A level. Harris has already beaten four nationally-ranked opponents, and he is doing an excellent job filling the void left at 157 pounds by the graduation of last season's NCAA-qualifier Daryl Christian.

"As far as Eugene is concerned, it is only a matter of him believing he is as good as he actually is," Kearney said.

Harris' strong wrestling performance as of late is proof that he is almost fully recovered from a knee injury that hampered him early in the season. Harris said he is almost 100 percent healthy and is now able to do things he was incapable of doing when injured.

"It was rough at the beginning,

but I'm coming back right, and now I can do stuff like shooting and other things I couldn't do earlier," said Harris, who was voted wrestler of the year in Nevada during his senior season at Cimarron Memorial High School.

Harris wrestles a familiar face Saturday. He already defeated his opponent at 157 pounds at the Southern Oregon Tournament earlier in the season and also beat him during his high school days.

Junior Doug Lee is continuing to dominate at 184 pounds. Lee, who won the Pac-10 in his weight class last season, appears due to repeat. At 16-3, Lee is currently the highest ranked wrestler in his division in the Pac-10.

Portland State's Jeremy Wilson has his hands full when he takes the mat with Lee. Wilson, who is the Vikings' top performer, is 6-6 and ranked fourth in the Pac-10.

"Jeremy Wilson is their toughest wrestler," Lee said. "Portland State's dang tough, but they're certainly not the toughest in the Pac-10."

According to Kearney, the Ducks have dominated Portland State for quite some time.

"In the last 40 years, we've beat them pretty regularly. I can't remember the last time we lost to them," said Kearney, who was an assistant as well as a wrestler at Oregon prior to being promoted to head coach last season. "We need to get our intensity up like we did against Oklahoma State."

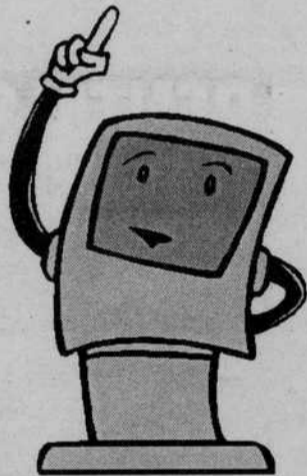
Simon Fraser is an unfamiliar foe for Oregon. None of Oregon's wrestlers have competed against the Clan from the Pacific West Conference. The Ducks have not competed against Simon Fraser since Oregon's 34-10 victory during the 1995-96 campaign.

Kearney said the Clan have a wide range of talent that could make the contest interesting if the Ducks don't stay focused.

"They have a few extremely good wrestlers, and some that are not good at all," Kearney said. "If they sneak a few wins, it could be a competitive dual meet."



Room for You!



Due to popular demand, a second section of CIS 120, Concepts of Computing: Information Processing, has been added to the Winter 2000 time schedule. Please check Duck Hunt for CRNs and schedule details.

902800

Virtual Office Systems Inc.

In Partnership with

The University of Oregon Bookstore

3131 West 11th Ph. 343-8633 Open Mon-Sat 10-6

**The AMD K7
Athlon 550
\$1449.99**

- Microstar MS 6167 Board
- 8 MB Diamond AGP
- 10 GB Western Digital
- 64 MB 100 MHz SDRAM
- 17" .28 SVGA Monitor
- W/ Athlon 500 \$1379.99
- W/ Athlon 600 \$1629.99
- Upgrade to a 13 Gig Drive \$20



**We'll build it
with the
upgrades you
want!**

**The "Ultimate"
Pentium III® 500
\$1249.99**

- Soyo BX Motherboard
- 8 MB Diamond AGP
- 6.4 GB Fujitsu Drive
- 64 MB 100 MHz SDRAM
- 17" .28 SVGA Monitor
- With Pentium III 550 \$1399.99
- Upgrade to 8.4 GB Drive, \$10
- Many other options available

All systems include ATX case, Windows 98, 52X CD, 56K v.90 modem, mouse, keyboard, floppy, sound, speakers, 1 Year parts/ 2 Years labor warranty.

VOS Inc. Systems are also available at the U of O Bookstore. Parts available only at VOS Inc. Prices good through 01/15/00. AMD, K6, K7, AMD logo and 3DNow! are trademarks of AMD, Inc. Prices subject to change. Go Ducks!

Top-rusher Watters practices for Seahawks

KIRKLAND, Wash. — Ricky Watters, who is still hampered by a sprained right knee, practiced for the first time in two weeks on Thursday as the Seattle Seahawks continued to get ready for their first playoff game in 11 seasons.

Watters had his sixth career 1,000-yard rushing season for the AFC West champion Seahawks, but was ineffective in their regular season finale on the road against the New York Jets last Sunday. He had 30 yards on nine carries in a 19-9 defeat in which Seattle couldn't score a touchdown.

The Seahawks play the Miami Dolphins on Sunday in the Kingdome.

Wearing a brace, Watters looked impressive and appeared to be his old self in Thursday's practice after being held out of Wednesday's workout.

"I feel a lot better and I've still got some days to go," Watters said. "It was very encouraging. Actual-

ly, I wasn't supposed to do as much as I did. They just wanted me to run around a little bit and see how it felt."

Watters said he wanted to discard the brace or use a smaller, less restrictive one, but team doctors told him he would have to wear it.

"It was all vetoed," he said with a smile. "Every doctor said, 'No,' 'No,' 'No.' 'Next question. You have to wear the brace. OK?'"

Coach Mike Holmgren said Wednesday that Watters would start against Miami, but Holmgren didn't think Watters would be 100 percent for his 11th career playoff game and his first since 1996.

"I'm definitely going to be ready," Watters said. "I felt good today, but I'm even going to be feeling better because it's going to be getting stronger and stronger. If I get out there, I'm going to go fast and go hard."

The Associated Press