



Jeffrey Stockton Emerald

Oregon wrestlers will try to hold down the Beavers in today's Civil War, the first of the season, at McArthur Court.

Ducks ready for Civil War battle

More than pride is on the line when archrivals Oregon and Oregon State hit the mats today at McArthur Court

By Brett Williams
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon and Oregon State have loaded their guns. Shots will fire today at 7:30 p.m. when the two teams fight for state supremacy in the Civil War at McArthur Court.

More than a win or a loss is on the line when these two teams meet. The majority of the players on both teams were prep wrestlers in Oregon, and many have faced each other before.

Combine that with the fact that most wrestlers on both schools' rosters were heavily recruited by both the Ducks and the Beavers and it puts a peculiar twist on the Civil War every year. This year shouldn't be any different.

"I know the coaches get excited, because this is a rivalry equaled by none," said Oregon head coach Chuck Kearney, in his second season as the Ducks' head coach. "There are bragging rights and pride on the line, and we want to beat Oregon State every chance we have."

Kearney said it is important for his players to stay focused and not let the distractions that come with the Civil War affect their quality of their play.

"We don't want them to get caught up in the hype of the Civil War," Kearney said. "They need to treat this like any other match."

Last season the Beavers definitely ruffled the Ducks' feathers.

In their first meeting, Oregon won six of nine matches but had to forfeit one weight class and ended up losing 20-19. In their second contest, the Ducks dou-

bled their forfeits and, consequently, lost the match 22-17.

"We felt like we out-wrestled them but lost the meet. Last year was real frustrating," Kearney said. "We can only concern ourselves with what happened on the mat. But this is a new year, with new wrestlers, and a new experience."

One new wrestler participating in his first Civil War is Ducks' sophomore Eugene Harris. A junior college transfer from Lassen Community College, he has been wrestling well for the Ducks of late.

On tap

What: Wrestling Civil War

Who: Oregon State (3-4, 1-1) vs. Oregon (4-2, 3-1)

When: tonight, 7:30 p.m.

Where: McArthur Court

In probably the most intriguing match of the contest, he will challenge Oregon State's Eric Jorgenson,

who is ranked seventh in the nation and has a record of 17-1.

Harris is hardly intimidated, however.

"He's good, but I know I'm better," Harris said. "The only thing he has over me is that he has wrestled at this level longer. I need to attack him and control the match. I know I can beat him, and that's what it comes down to. When he changes his style, I need to capitalize."

Youth has been an overriding theme for the Ducks this season, while Oregon's coaches wait for their younger wrestlers to break

out from under their shells.

Seven freshman fill out Oregon's probable depth chart. And the Ducks will wrestle only two upperclassman against the Beavers, senior Jesse Culp at 174 pounds and junior Doug Lee at 184 pounds.

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