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### THE BOTTOM LINE

· Make a difference in the lives of children and the developmentally disabled and make a postive impact on the environment





Sophomore David Watson (left) wrestles his younger brother Brian Watson, a freshman, at Wednesday's wrestling practice.

Rvan Starkweather Emerald

■ The Watson brothers lead a poised and ready wrestling team to the Pac-10 Championships

By Matt O'Neill

Wrestling is definitely a family

affair for Brian and David Watson. Their roots in the sport run much deeper than the Oregon program; their father was a collegiate grappler as well. Brian sees wrestling as their predestination.

"He started us real early, I was in second grade and David was in third," Brian said. "We kind of got into [wrestling] on our own, but he

led us to it by talking about it." David agrees with his younger

"I think we were destined to do it," David said. "I have a little shirt that my aunt made for me with a big wrestler on it. So it was like we were meant for it.'

Whether it was predestination or not, the Watsons have definitely turned the seed their father

planted in their heads when they were young into successful collegiate careers.

David, a sophomore, has capped a successful career by heading into the Pacific-10 Conference Championships with a 14-6 record. Meanwhile, younger brother Brian, a redshirt freshman. overcame a late-season broken hand to post an impressive 16-9 season ledger heading into the

Head coach Chuck Kearney saw David's potential before he had any real success in high school.

"He has an intensity about him, he has a seriousness about him," Kearney said. "By talking to other coaches I could tell he had a good work ethic. In fact, when he came on his recruiting trip he snuck out and ran the Autzen steps.

His determination rubbed off on Brian, who looked to his older sibling for support and how to be successful on and off the mat.

"We were competitive growing up," Brian said. "He was always one step ahead, so I always looked up to what he did.

But David doesn't see it the same way his younger brother does. He often finds himself looking to Brian for support and as an example.

"He sets an example for me, almost," David said. "With his grades, and all that, he keeps me

And on track they are, having rebounded from injuries and sicknesses that plagued the two early in the season. Kearney is especially pleased with the way they have regrouped after their early setbacks.

"David has had some things get in his way, but he's been fighting back from that and is ready to have a good Pac-10 tournament," Kearney said. "Because of [Brian's] dedication and work ethic, he didn't lose anything conditioning-wise. I think he'll have a good Pac-10 as well."

66 I think we were destined to do it.

**David Watson UO** wrestler

The Watsons, along with the rest of the Oregon squad, head to Davis, Calif., to compete in the Pac-10 tournament and battle for a team title. The Ducks last held that honor in 1982.

Along with the title chase, several Ducks are also poised to qualify for the national championships, led by senior Doug Lee at 184 pounds.

The No. 8 Lee comes into this weekend's action as the favorite to repeat as Pac-10 champion.

"Doug is coming in as the No. 1 seed and he's wrestling real well right now," Kearney said. "He is in

the strongest position he's been in in a while and he's going to be the overwhelming favorite.

Junior college transfer Eugene Harris is also looking to advance beyond the conference championships. The sophomore has posted an impressive 14-3 record in dual matches. Kearney said Harris will be seeded as high as third or fourth.

Tony Overstake could be seeded No. 4 and Eric Webb could also be seeded third or fourth. Brian Watson comes into the tournament as the No. 2 seed.

'Each one of those gives us a semifinal match-up that we like," Kearney said. "We have to go out and perform, and if we do, that puts us in a position where we could get five, six or seven guys to the national tournament.

According to Kearney, the team will have to compete better than ever to get as many as seven grapplers into nationals. But he expects his team to come out and wrestle hard.

"The key for us is if our guys are ready for that step up in intensity," Kearney said.

Kearney said that Watson will be ready for the championship.

"We'll see how strong Brian looks on Saturday," Kearney said.
"With his month off, it lets him get some minor dings and injuries



Take a PE class

For More Information:

a) Web site: http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~pars

b) Schedule of Classes - pgs. 98-102

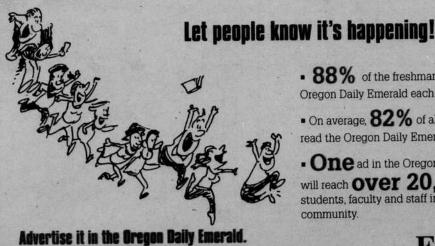
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