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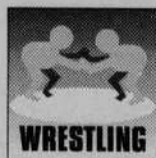
Iowa pins 36-9 loss on UO

■ The Oregon wrestling team wraps up their non-league schedule against powerhouse Iowa

By Robbie McCallum
 Oregon Daily Emerald

In Texas, there is football. In Indiana, there is basketball. Where is the sport of wrestling king? Iowa.

The Oregon wrestling team faced No. 3 Iowa and all of the tradition that followed with it on Saturday afternoon. A crowd of 1,260 showed up at McArthur Court to see the Hawkeyes and Ducks tangle.



Unfortunately, wrestling three of the top wrestling programs in the nation over a period of five days took its toll on the Ducks as they fell 36-9 to Iowa.

"We got what we wanted out of wrestling these top programs," head coach Chuck Kearney said. "Iowa controlled us mentally today and just wore us down. That's

what we want our wrestlers to do and now that they've seen it up close, I think it will help down the road."

The three-time defending national champions brought in an impressive lineup with a top-10 ranked wrestler in all but two classes. Iowa's Eric Juergens, Doug Schwab and T.J. Williams are all favorites to win NCAA titles in their respective classes.

The Ducks did take advantage of the Hawkeyes' two weak spots in the heavyweights.

Senior Chael Sonnen turned in an impressive performance with an 11 second pin over Ryan Fulsaa at 197 pounds. Fulsaa charged at the starting whistle and grabbed Sonnen's leg. Sonnen then dropped to the mat, reversed Fulsaa before recording the pin.

"If Chael can get in your head as well as dominate you physically, he is tough to beat," Kearney said. "He's capable of beating anyone if he wrestles up to his potential."

The pin was Sonnen's ninth of the season, tops among Oregon wrestlers.

At heavyweight, sophomore Eric

Webb improved to 16-4 on the season with a hard fought 7-2 decision over Josh Liddle. After two rounds of low scoring, No. 7 Webb put the match away with two take-downs in the third round.

The wins evened the match at nine points apiece after the Ducks opened the match with a forfeit and a loss.

Iowa responded with six straight wins to put the Ducks away for good.

"Every guy went out and did what he could," Kearney said. "Hopefully, what doesn't kill you only makes you stronger."

Oregon fell to 3-3 on the year, but there's easier sailing ahead. The Ducks don't leave Oregon until Jan. 26 and won't face a ranked opponent until Boise State comes to Eugene on Jan. 19.

The Ducks will take a hard earned rest day today before looking ahead to the rest of the season. Next up for Oregon is the Oregon Classic Duals at Portland's Memorial Coliseum. The Ducks will face Southern Oregon, Central Washington and Pacific, as well as Pacific-10 Conference rival Portland State on Friday.

Holiday Bowl

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lowered his head and ran into the end zone from nine yards out with 9:43 left in the game. The lead was short-lived, though, as Texas' Victor Ike took the ensuing kickoff and dashed 93-yards for the touchdown, a Holiday Bowl record.

With the score knotted at 28, it seemed the momentum had shifted into Texas' favor, but Harrington insisted that the thought of losing never entered Oregon's mind.

"Absolutely not," said the junior quarterback, who completed 19 of 30 passes for 273 yards and two touchdowns. "You can not believe that you're going to lose. If that thought enters your mind then you're done because you've given up. We've played these games all year."

Harrington and the Ducks showed their tight game experience on their next series, when they completed an eight play, 68-yard scoring drive with less than six minutes left. On a third-and-goal from the four-yard line, Harrington pitched it to sophomore receiver Jason Willis on an end-around reverse, who skated into the left corner of the goal untouched for the 35-28 lead.

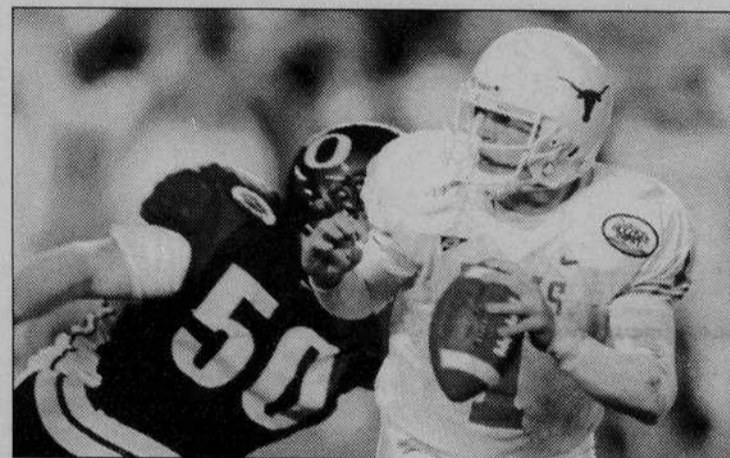
The rest of the game consisted of missed chances for Texas, as Longhorn quarterback Chris Simms could never quite connect on the important pass. On a first-and-10 from the 22 with less than three minutes on the clock, Simms' pass to receiver B.J. Johnson bounced off his wide-open hands.

Simms threw the next pass out of bounds, but on third down, he again threw towards Johnson, who again dropped the ball. Finally, on fourth down, Simms saw an open Roy Williams in the right corner of the end zone, but the pass bounced right off of Williams' hands and onto the ground.

It couldn't have ended that easily for Oregon, however, as running back Allan Amundson fumbled and Texas recovered at the Oregon 32. Simms found the passing game difficult again, though, as he was picked off by Rashad Bauman.

Oregon then took a planned safety and turned it over to Texas with 17 seconds left, but the Longhorns' Hail Mary at the buzzer fell incomplete.

"We respected Oregon from the



Craig Mitchelldyer for the Emerald

Oregon's Jed Boice helped provide the constant pressure on Texas QB Chris Simms.

start," said Simms, who completed 17 of 33 passes for 245 yards. "They were definitely a BCS eligible team and deserved to be there if you ask me. They were unpredictable and kept us on our toes."

The end of the game brought the ceremonial water — Culligan water, of course — dousing of head coach Mike Bellotti and the award presentations to Harrington and Bauman as offensive and defensive players of the game.

"I'm proud for all the fans out here that took the time to come out and support us, and for my football team for their great work on the field," said Bellotti, while trying to get some of that water out of his ear. "Joey and Rashad deserve their award. They are great competitors with great heart."

Harrington showcased his variety of skills in front of an ESPN audience in the first quarter when he received his first ever reception and took it past the goal line for the touchdown in not-so-typical fashion.

On the scoring play, Harrington handed it off to receiver Keenan Howry — a high school quarterback — and then darted down the field. Howry lofted the perfect pass, and Harrington caught it while almost falling on his face. With the ball in his hands at the 10-yard line, he stumbled, bumbled and almost fumbled his way into the end zone.

"All year that kind of stuff has always been in the game plan and we knew we had an opportunity to get these plays off," said Howry, who had practiced that same exact trick play with Harrington eight times the previous week and only completed it once.

The touchdown gave Oregon the 14-0 advantage, following tight end Justin Peelle's one-yard touchdown reception earlier.

The Longhorns bounced back in the second period and ran off 21 unanswered points, capped by Greg Brown's 23-yard interception for a touchdown to give Texas the 21-14 lead at the half.

Oregon's Maurice Morris, who finished with 96 yards on 26 carries, provided the scoring in the third quarter when he received a pass from Harrington and scampered 55 yards down the field to send the game into the fourth tied up at 21.

"This is the greatest win in my career," senior defensive end Saul Patu said. "I'm just glad we're able to make history with the first 10-win season ever."

As Harrington reveled in his team's triumph on the field after the game, he just couldn't stop expressing how proud he was of his Ducks. When asked for one word to describe the feeling, Harrington couldn't contain himself.

"How about character? How about desire? How about Oregon Duck football family?" Harrington said. "I guess that's more than one word, huh? But that's really what it was all year. We played for each other, from the start of the season to the end. We've shown that we can beat the best teams in the country."

"Oh man, it's great to be a part of something this special."

A few days later, the final rankings were released with Oregon finishing No. 7 in the Associated Press poll and No. 9 in the Coaches' poll.