

# Wrestling

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the weight, we knew he was going to have a much improved season," Kearney said.

"The weight room has definitely had a lot to do with things," Webb said. "I've been breaking my old records. Coach Kearney puts us through a tough program."

Having a lighter frame has always been an issue for Webb. Many college wrestling programs looked over Webb because he was too light to wrestle heavyweight, and too heavy to wrestle at the next lowest weight class, 197 pounds.

Webb's weight even kept him out of college football, his first choice in collegiate sports. Webb was a second team All-State selection at the defensive lineman position at Eugene's Willamette High School.

"I guess I wasn't 'Division I material.'" Webb said, gesturing quotation marks with his fingers. "Whatever."

Fortunately, Webb had a backup plan. After

placing second in the state at 215 pounds in February of 1998, he signed a letter of intent in May.

"There was no other school I was going to wrestle for," Webb said. "Oregon State already had three or four heavyweights, and I wasn't going to Portland State. Plus, my high school coach encouraged me to come here."

"I knew he could be a Division I wrestler," said Rick O'Shea, former Willamette High School wrestling coach and Oregon wrestler. "I called a couple schools, but they weren't interested. Fortunately for Oregon, he went there."

Webb credits much of his success in lighter wrestling to O'Shea.

"[Rick] had a lot to do with my wrestling ability," Webb said. "He told me how to wrestle a lighter weight than a heavier weight and really got me interested in the sport."

"I was trying to teach him a collegiate style of wrestling," O'Shea said. "He had speed and agility — the stuff I preached when I was in college."

Webb's prowess this season has earned him

a No. 4 national ranking after beginning the season unranked. Don't tell that to Webb, though.

"I really don't know why [the polls] are out there," Webb said. "It doesn't really matter because the top-20 guys could be in the top-eight at my weight class. It doesn't matter until the March 17 [NCAA Championships]."

On Wednesday, Webb's task at hand will be Oregon State's No. 11 Jason Cooley, a 260-pounder whom Webb has defeated twice this season.

On the horizon is the Pacific-10 Conference championships at McArthur Court on Feb. 24-25, where he will likely be one of the top seeds.

"Eric's capable of being a top contender this year," Kearney said. "I'd like to see Eric at some point win a national title. He's a kind of guy who could go on to the next level and participate on international teams representing the United States."

"If he continues to work hard and continues to make improvements like he has, the world of wrestling is open to him."

## ERIC WEBB



**Weight:** 235 pounds (Heavyweight)  
**Year:** Sophomore (RS)  
**Hometown:** Eugene, Ore. (Willamette HS)  
**2000-01:** Record: 27-4, 7-0 Pac-10  
**Accomplishments:** Ranked No. 4 nationally by Amateur

Wrestling News. Has six upsets over ranked wrestlers this season, including Fresno State's No. 2 Billy Blunt and Illinois' No. 6 John Lockhart. Leads Ducks in wins (27) and winning percentage (.870).

**Before Oregon:** Was a 4A second-team All-State defensive lineman. Finished second at 215 pounds and first in Greco-Roman. Also played baseball for the Wolverines.

# Women's

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now," Arizona head coach Joan Bonvicini told the Arizona Daily Star. "Our players are frustrated because they know we have a better team than what we're showing."

The Wildcats were swept by the Washington schools last weekend, capped by a 93-86 loss in Pullman.

"We just don't have any solutions," forward Krista Warren said. "We don't know why. Everyone's

looking around at each other saying, 'I don't know.'"

Arizona's only wins in the last month came against Oregon and Oregon State, both in Tucson.

### Stanford's rise

Stanford was projected to finish atop the Pac-10 this season, and despite a 1-3 start in the conference, it has proved the projectors right — so far.

The Cardinal backcourt has provided a consistent boost for the team; in particular, junior Lauren

St. Clair has come up huge lately. She hit a crucial three-pointer against the Ducks in last Thursday's 63-54 victory at Maples Pavilion, and tallied 24 points against Oregon State, shooting 6-for-11 from behind the three-point line.

Freshman guard Nicole Powell — a shoo-in for freshman of the year — has six double-doubles this season, tied for the best in the conference.

### Peter Hockaday's weekly sports poll

It's clear that both Oregon basketball teams are in a funk.

The men and women seem to have hit that midseason wall, and there's not much room for error from here on out. However, there is still time to salvage their seasons, and we want to know which team you think has a better chance of turning its season around.

To vote, go to [www.dailymerald.com](http://www.dailymerald.com)

and click on the sports section. The options are the men, the women or neither.

### LAST WEEK'S RESULTS:

Last week, we asked you to vote for your favorite sports movie, and although it was close, "Field of Dreams" took the top spot.

Coming in a close second, however, was the basketball classic "Hoosiers," followed by "Chariots of Fire."

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 Deadline: Feb. 19, 2001

## R-E-C-Y-C-L-E

## Horoscope by Linda C. Black

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (Feb. 13). The tougher the challenge, the more you'll love it. To achieve the perfection you're after, keep practicing. Choose reality over fantasy in February. A setback in April only renews your fighting spirit. Memorize the rules in May, and forget your inhibitions with true love in June. You can see treasure in July, even if you can't quite get it yet. Your plan is put to the test in November, and you also see the light that month. To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 6 — Your team faces tough competition. You can cheer teammates on, but it won't be enough. You also need to help them work out a strategy. That's what the other guys are doing.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 5 — Don't just do as you're told; think about it. An older person's scheme may have a fatal error, so proceed with caution. You can figure out a better way, but it may take a couple of days.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 6 — New assignments may force you to postpone travel. If you can wait until Thursday or Friday, you'll have fewer delays en route. The chores you do before then are frustrating, but it'll be great to have them done.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 5 — Review your budget with your sweetheart and/or children, and come up with a long-term plan. First, set an exciting goal. You may not have enough to get there yet, but don't quit. That's why you're making a plan!

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 6 — Over the next few days, what you want and what you get could be two different things. Someone may have trouble following your directions, so close supervision is recommended for any job you delegate.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 5 —

You're still running into a few bugs, but don't despair. You'll find them all by about Thursday. Consider it sort of a treasure hunt, even if it seems more like sweeping a minefield. Hey, they wouldn't ask you to do it if they didn't think you could, right?

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Your loved one or child may soon be disappointed that something isn't affordable. Tell him or her to focus on education and to not be dismayed if it takes a while to reach a goal. This is good for them, so don't cave in.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 5 — You pretty much have control of the situation, although you may not think so, because you keep discovering things you don't like. Keep telling yourself that you'll have a strong foundation by the time you're done.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 6 — Review your work before you hand it in, because it may have errors. You don't get extra points for hurrying, so take your time and do it right.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 4 — A slick, persistent salesperson could try to talk you into spending money. Is the salesperson's product helpful, or is this person trying to meet a quota? To find out, stall.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 5 — Your latest proposal is apt to come under close scrutiny in the next few days. Just fix the things the inspector finds; don't make a big deal of it. It's all part of doing the job right.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 6 — Some of your basic beliefs might be challenged, and you may decide to re-examine them yourself. Only let go of the stuff weighing you down. You'll be able to identify the truth, because it will set you free.

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**To Jack**  
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