



UO wrestling drops Civil War match on road

■ The Beavers even the season series in the intrastate rivalry, which dates back to 1953

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

CORVALLIS — In the state of Oregon it rains. And when it rains, it pours.

The Oregon wrestling team sustained its fifth straight dual match loss Wednesday night at the hands of heated rival Oregon State at Gill Coliseum in



Corvallis.

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The Beavers won seven of 10 matches en route to a 25-10 victory against the No. 18 Ducks.

"There were matches tonight that we should have won on paper," Oregon head coach Chuck Kearney said. "But we don't wrestle on paper, we wrestle on the mat. The bottom line is they came out excited."

Oregon fell to 7-8 overall and 4-4 in the Pacific-10 Conference while Oregon State moved into a tie for second place in the conference with an 8-2 league record and 12-7 overall.

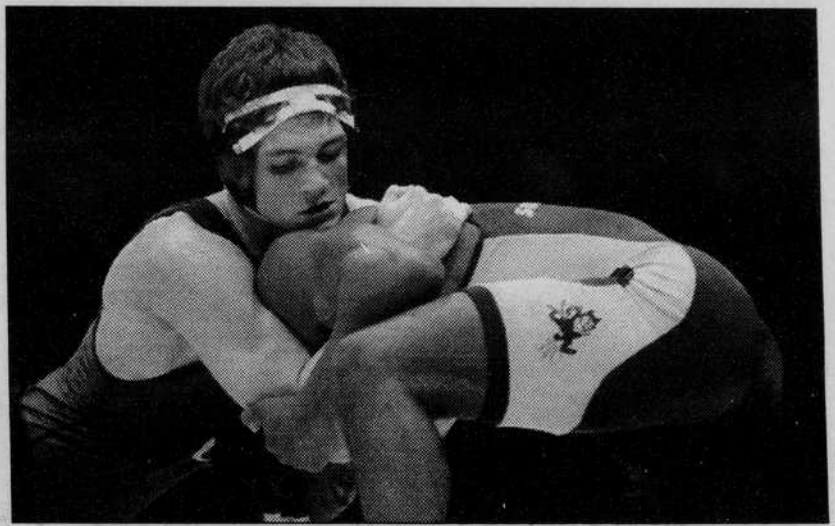
"It wasn't a perfect score," said Oregon State head coach Joe Wells, whose team avenged

a 22-16 loss in Eugene on Dec. 13. "But we might have helped ourselves in the seeding for the Pac-10 meet. It's a big win."

The Ducks suffered their worst loss since a Jan. 6 loss to No. 3 ranked Iowa. Oregon wrestlers won the first and last matches of the night, but lost all but one in between. The Ducks also had to overcome the loss of heavyweight Eric Webb, the team leader in wins, due to a concussion and sophomore Casey Hunt with a knee injury.

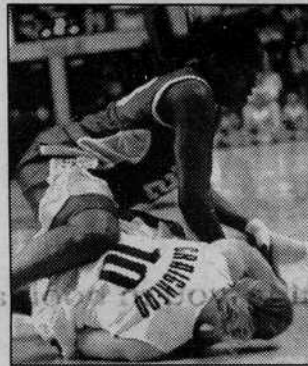
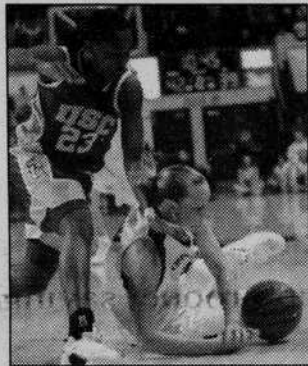
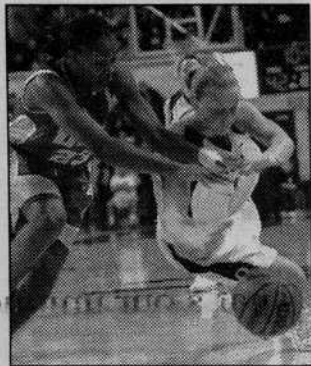
"The loss of Eric had a little bit to do with it," Kearney said. "Eric is big emotionally for us and the guys are used to seeing him win and get fired up by it."

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Kenny Cox (left) lost to Shane Cunanan of Oregon State in the Ducks' 25-10 loss Wednesday.

Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emerald



Head coach Jody Runge (far left) and junior Jamie Craighead (in sequence) slid to a four-game losing streak on the road in the past two weeks.

Adam Amato Emerald

Team in turmoil

Coach Jody Runge is trying to light a fire under the Ducks, but players say her tactics may not be the most effective

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon women's basketball team seemed in good spirits as it scrimmaged full-court toward the end of Wednesday's practice.

Starters wore the green jerseys. Down 68-65, green-team guard Jamie Craighead pulled up from three-point land and drained it with 17 seconds remaining.

The reserves, donning white, readied their offense as the final seconds unfolded. The ball found its way to point guard Alissa Edwards, who let fly a

shot of her own.

"Game," one of Edwards' teammates said, as the ball hung in the air.

The shot looked good, but — clang — just short.

So it's been for these Ducks this season.

For the first time in eight years, Oregon has lost six of its past seven games. The Ducks are a dismal 3-8 on the road. When the team has needed a leader, nobody has stepped up to the challenge.

After Wednesday's practice, as each player earned the right to

leave by sinking four consecutive free throws, the truth of the team emerged as players vented their frustrations.

The Ducks are not having fun. "I just think we want to have fun because we haven't had a whole lot of fun this year," senior forward Angelina Wolvert said. "We just want to play hard and win and take care of the rest of the season as best we can."

"We want to be out of this corner so badly," senior forward Lindsey Dion said. "But it seems at times that the harder we try,

the worse it gets."

On different wavelengths

The window of opportunity to capture a third Pacific-10 Conference title narrowed when Oregon endured another tough loss at Stanford's Maples Pavilion last Thursday.

Two nights later, the window slammed shut.

California beat the Ducks for the first time in its program's history. While Cal players celebrated victory, Oregon head coach Jody

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On Tap

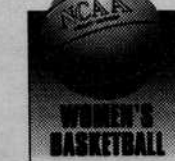
Who: Oregon's women vs. Washington State
When: 7 p.m. tonight
Where: McArthur Court

Oregon basketball hopes to improve against Cougs

■ With Wolvert and a still-banged-up Dion in the rotation, the Ducks look to end their four-game losing skid

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

With all apologies to Roloids, the Oregon women's basketball team has a new way to spell "relief": M-A-C-C-O-U-R-T.



After two weeks on the road, and six of their past eight away from McArthur Court, the Ducks (12-9 overall, 5-6 Pacific-10 Conference) are home tonight for a 7 p.m. tipoff against Washington State with high expectations of snapping a four-game drought and regaining control of their postseason plans.

In eight years under head coach Jody Runge, the Ducks have never lost five consecutive games.

"The community has been very compassionate since we've been back in town, and that's a really big factor for us right now," Runge said. "I've heard nothing but 'Why do you have to play so much on the road? That's horrible.' Our fans warrant dearly to be a factor in our success, and I'm sure they'll be here in full force [this weekend]."

"And I'm looking forward to it; it's something we've missed."

The Ducks have not been the same since their first meeting with Washington State (9-12, 4-7) in Pullman, where Oregon lost its first Pac-10 game of the season 67-64. Since that Jan. 20 game, the Ducks are 1-6.

Joanna Smith, a Washington State senior,

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■ The men will try to get their season back on track by having fun in Washington

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

When the Oregon men's basketball team last played Washington State on Jan. 20, the Ducks were apprehensive after dropping a close game to Washington the previous Thursday. Oregon managed to beat the Cougars, 81-66, in Eugene.

Now, the Ducks are apprehensive after losing three straight games, for various reasons, and dropping fast in the Pacific-10 Conference. If Oregon loses both games this weekend, it could find itself last in the conference.

But the Ducks are still in good spirits. Now, instead of talking about NAAs and NITs, Oregon talks about having fun and enjoying the rest of the season.

"We're still capable of having a great finish," said Ernie Kent, Oregon head coach.

The Ducks will try to put the season back together north of the Oregon-Washington border.

"We're looking forward to it," Oregon guard Freddie Jones said. "They're two tough teams, and they're going to come out and battle us. We've got to battle back."

The Northwest rivalries have been intense recently. Three of the Ducks' last five games with Washington have gone into overtime, while the Ducks have gone to overtime in Pullman the past two seasons.

From a nuts-and-bolts perspective, Kent said he hopes Oregon's offense can get back

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