



Ducks looking forward to Pac-10 title at home

The Oregon wrestling team is hosting the Pac-10 Championships and is looking for its first conference crown since 1982

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

In the sport of wrestling, only two competitions in the entire season add up to anything: The one at the end of the season and the one to qualify for the one at the end.

The Oregon wrestling team will host the first of these competitions, the Pacific-10 Conference Championships, Sunday through Monday at McArthur Court. The two-day wrestling extravaganza will determine the conference champion and which individuals qualify for the NCAA Championships in mid-March.

"I think our kids are ready to get after it," Oregon head coach Chuck Kearney said. "The key for us is if our guys are ready for that step up in intensity."

The Ducks are looking for their first conference crown since the 1982 season and to improve on their fifth-place finish at last year's tournament. The top four wrestlers in each weight class automatically qualify for the NCAA's, with three additional at-large bids available as well.

Seven Ducks are ranked in the top-four of the conference rankings, including two top-ranked wrestlers. Senior

Doug Lee and junior Shaun Williams will head into the Pac-10's as favorites, while senior Chael Sonnen, sophomore Eric Webb and sophomore Tony Overstake are all ranked second.

Lee is a two-time defending Pac-10 champion, NCAA placer and currently ranked seventh among 184-pounders.



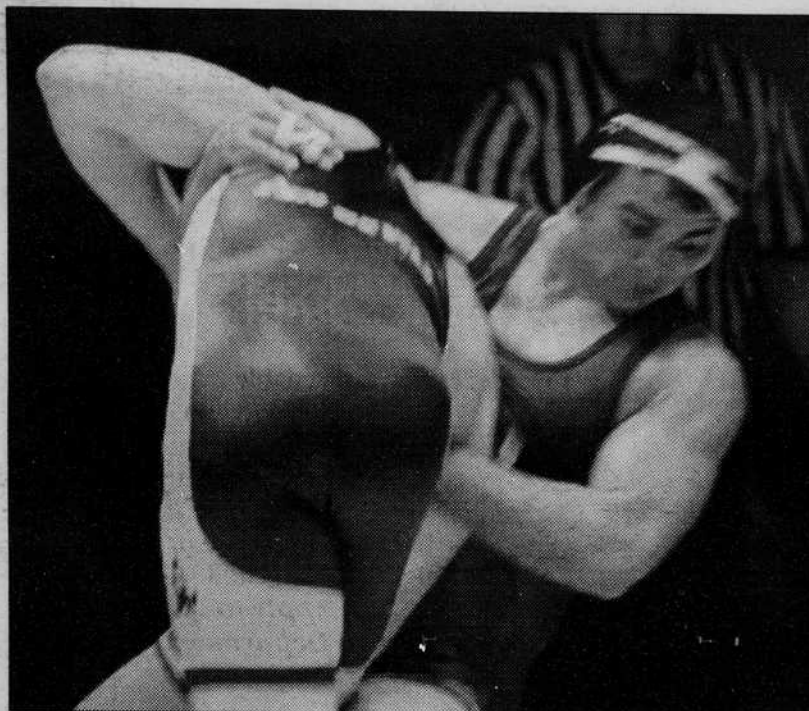
Lee is 28-5 this season and has not lost a match since Jan. 6.

Sonnen went to the NCAA tournament twice at 197 pounds before taking

last season off to train with the U.S. Olympic team. Sonnen (27-6) will face stiff competition from Boise State's Rusty Cook.

Williams (125 pounds) will wrestle for the first time in a Division I conference tournament. The South African native is no stranger to tournament action; he is a junior college champion and Olympic qualifier.

Webb went undefeated in Pac-10 play, but it is unlikely that he will receive the top bidding at heavyweight. In Oregon's match with Arizona State, Turn to Wrestling, page 8



Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emerald

Senior 184-pounder Doug Lee (right) is looking for his third straight Pac-10 championship at home this weekend.

ON TAP

Who: No. 18-ranked Oregon wrestling team

What: Pac-10 Championship Tournament

When: Sunday and Monday

Where: McArthur Court



Adam Amato Emerald

Oregon guard Freddie Jones (20) and the Ducks scored 73 points, but the Ducks' late-game run over a six-minute span fell short of beating the Bruins.

Ducks fall hard to streaking Bruins

■ An emotional Oregon basketball team can't prevent No. 15 UCLA's sixth straight victory

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon men's basketball team played with heat, emotion and intensity against No. 15 UCLA Thursday night at McArthur Court.

But just when it looked as though the Ducks might pull even with the Bruins, "the paint can lid slammed shut" over Oregon's rim, as Ducks head coach Ernie Kent put it.

Oregon (13-11 overall, 4-10 Pacific-10 Conference) dropped the first game of its final homestand of the season, 88-73, to UCLA (18-6, 11-2). It was the sixth straight win for the Bruins, who held on to sole possession of second place in the Pac-10.

Midway through the second half, the Ducks made a valiant run at the Bruins. With 14:48 showing on the clock in the second frame, Oregon's Freddie Jones hit a free throw to bring the score to 62-43 in favor of UCLA. Seconds later, Jones stole an alley-oop pass with a leaping grab. He gave the ball to freshman James Davis on the other end, who hit a three-pointer to bring the crowd to its feet.

"Jones just went up like Batman and intercepted that thing," UCLA head coach Steve Lavin said.

Davis' three started an 18-5 Oregon run that brought the score to 69-61 UCLA with 6:25 left in the game.

But during the last minutes of the contest, the Ducks

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“Jones just went up like Batman and intercepted that thing.”

Steve Lavin head coach, UCLA

UCLA big men find way to break Mac Court conundrum

Oregon's dominance over UCLA at Mac Court comes to an end, thanks to the Bruins' post players

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

The hex.

McArthur Court has been a dangerous place for UCLA basketball teams in the last seven years. Some of the most painful losses in Bruin history have come at the hands of Oregon and the boisterous Mac Court fans.

Flashback to 1995, when UCLA suffered only two losses — one at Mac

Court at the hands of Kenya Wilkins — en route to an NCAA championship. More recently, the Bruins suffered one of their most lopsided losses at The Pit in a 15-point Oregon win last season.

No longer.

UCLA dominated early in Thursday night's game, then held on for a 15-point win of its own.

"Oregon is definitely the toughest place to get a road win at," UCLA cen-

ter Dan Gadzuric said. "It's a great place to play at. This is one of those special wins."

Gadzuric and frontcourt mates Matt Barnes and Jason Kapono were able to ignore the taunts and jeers from McArthur Court's infamous Pit Crew for a combined 57 points and 29 rebounds to lead the Bruins over Oregon, 88-73.

The difference between this year's

game and past UCLA losses at Oregon was the Bruins' frontcourt dominance.

"The plan was to come out, put pressure on the boards and contain [Bryan] Bracey and [Freddie] Jones," UCLA coach Steve Lavin said. "Defensively, the press was effective and we created a nice rhythm on the floor."

"It was just one of our goals to control rebounding and the paint," said

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