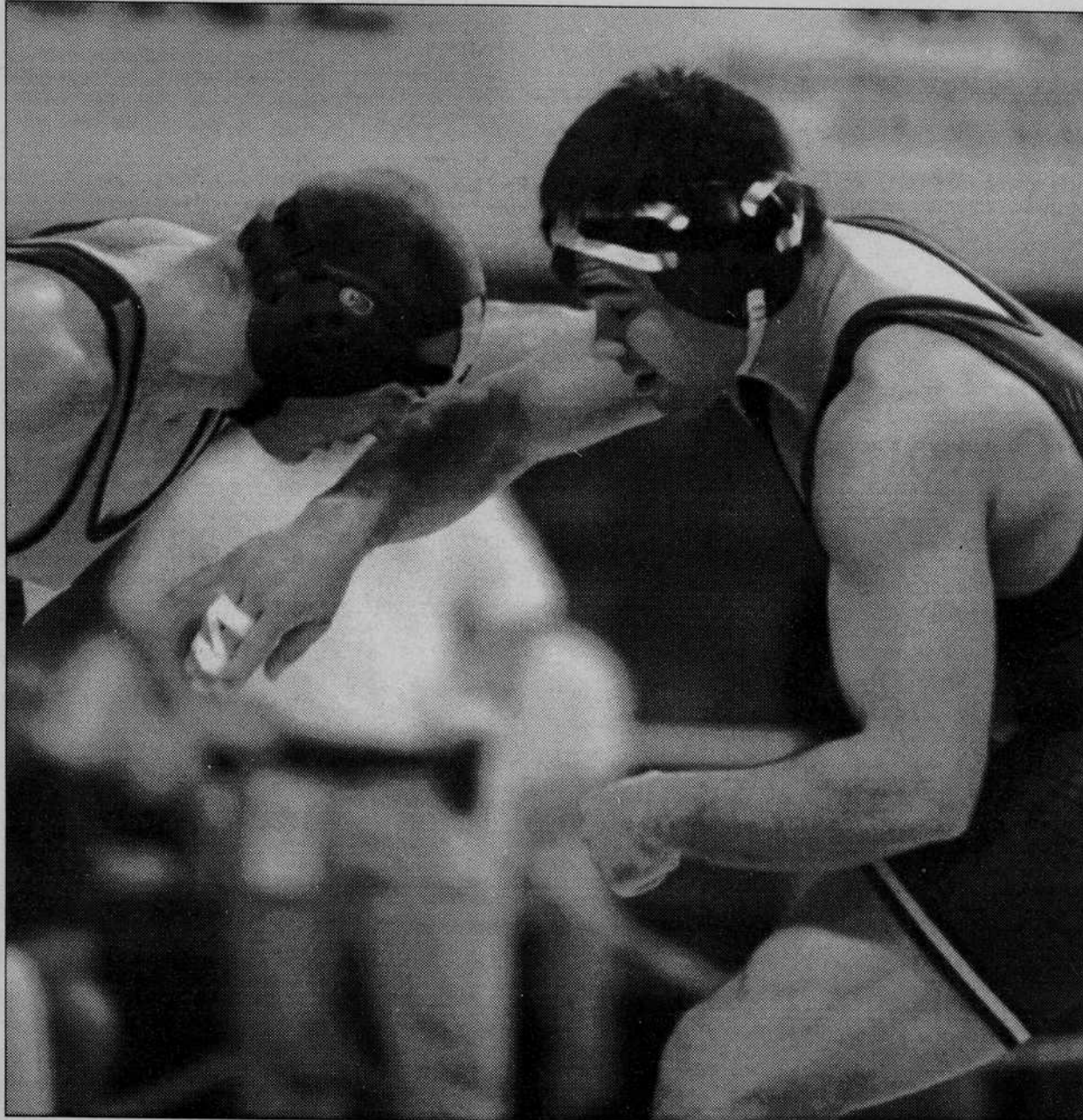




Wrestling solidifies itself as national power



Laura Smit Emerald

Senior All-American Doug Lee (right) was a force this season for Oregon, which earned its highest national ranking in three years.

■ An up-and-down 2000-01 wrestling season was highlighted by mostly ups

By Robbie McCallum
Oregon Daily Emerald

Results can be deceiving.

If one were to look at Oregon wrestling coach Chuck Kearney's record over the last two years, one would see a decrease in dual match wins and only minor improvement in the Pacific-10 Conference tournament.

What doesn't translate into record books, however, is strength of schedule, experience and several devastating injuries.

What the record book will tell you is that the Ducks sent more individuals to the NCAA Tournament (seven) since the 1980-81 season and that they wrestled four top-10 teams.

"We wrestled the toughest schedule of any Oregon team ever and were an injury and two losses away from being Pac-10 champs," Kearney said. "We have one team goal left and that is to place in the top 10 at nationals. If we can do that, hopefully that will set the record straight."

"The biggest thing this team went through was the metamorphosis from a team that didn't know what it was capable of into a national-caliber team," Kearney said. "The hard work and sacrifices they went through have been exactly what we wanted."

The 2000-01 wrestling season was the most successful in Kearney's tenure at Oregon and one of the most successful in school history, even though the win-loss record may not have shown it.

Six of the eight losses Oregon sustained this season came by fewer than six points, including three-point losses to No. 6 Oklahoma and No. 11 Arizona State. Give the Ducks an extra point victory in those six matches and they finish the season 13-2, in-

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“We wrestled the toughest schedule of any Oregon team ever and were an injury and two losses away from being Pac-10 champs.”

Chuck Kearney
Oregon wrestling coach

Runge mutes women's team during Civil War week

Oregon coach Jody Runge has yet to comment about team members' request for her job

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

Tuesday was suppose to bring forth some truth.

Tuesday was suppose to clear up some of the misunderstanding and allow Jody Runge to speak her mind.

But like many aspects of the Oregon women's basketball team's season, Tuesday was a bit disappointing.

After more than half of the 14 players on the Oregon basketball squad privately told Athletic Director Bill Moos that Runge, their coach, should be fired, the Ducks held their first practice, as normal, at 3:30 Tuesday afternoon.

Nothing else, however, was even remotely normal.

Prior to practice, a group of reporters — numbering about a dozen — gathered in the hallway outside the McArthur Court gym, hoping to get some answers about the players' Sunday meeting and quotes about this weekend's crucial matchup with Oregon State.

The only problem was that Runge apparently instructed her players to not talk with the media.

David Williford, director of media services, and Andrew Longeteig, assistant director, asked three players — seniors Angelina Wolvert, Lindsey

Dion and Brianne Meharry — whether they wanted to speak with the media. The players agreed to talk, but it was made clear that they would only answer questions about Saturday's Civil War game.

When asked about Oregon's focus on Oregon State in light of last Sunday's meeting, Wolvert replied: "No comment. Just come out and play like we normally do, nothing changed."

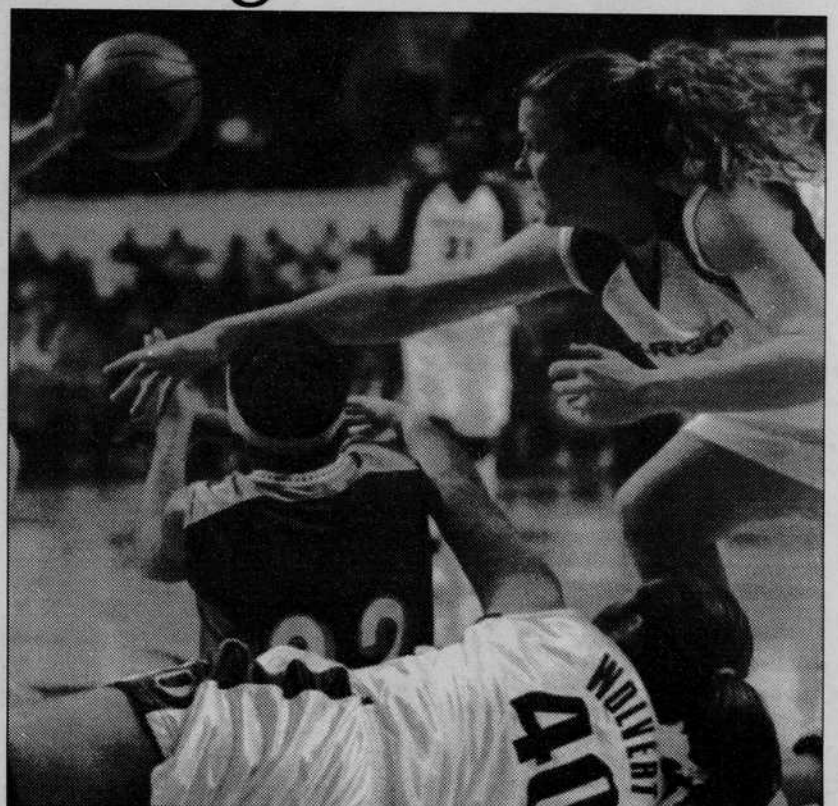
Wolvert and Meharry were still being interviewed 10 minutes later when Runge walked into the hallway, stopped, and shouted at Williford and Longeteig for allowing the players to speak.

"What part of that do you not understand?" she said.

After Runge went into the gym, Longeteig and Williford indicated they had an earlier discussion with Runge about the media's access to the players.

"We had conversations today, let's just leave it at that," Williford said.

The two remaining seniors were immediately directed into the gym to start practice — but not before Meharry delivered a sarcastic remark as she disappeared behind Mac Court's double doors: "Wish me luck."



Crystal McCall Emerald

Oregon seniors Angelina Wolvert and Brianne Meharry, shown here battling for a loose ball against Arizona, will not be talking with the media this week by order of coach Jody Runge.

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