

Wrestling

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stead of 7-8. Five untimely injuries before and during the Pac-10 Championships cost Oregon several places in the team standings. A concussion to sophomore Eric Webb and severe knee injuries to Brian Watson, Tony Overstake and Eugene Harris cost the Ducks many points, which could have won them the tournament. Instead, Oregon finished fourth, only 20 points behind winner Arizona State.

Despite the turmoil, the Ducks

managed to send seven wrestlers to the NCAA Tournament, the highest number since the 1980-81 season. It will take place March 15-17 in Iowa City, Iowa.

In senior Doug Lee's last match at McArthur Court, he won his third straight Pac-10 title to highlight Oregon's effort.

"The best part about it is I did it at home," Lee said. "Everyone that has supported me in my career was [at Mac Court]. Now we just have the NCAAs to look forward to."

"What we talked about was worrying about only things you can control," Kearney said. "At the

Pac-10s we had some injuries that cost us some spots, but the guys stayed strong and were still in the hunt 'til the very end."

While faces were long on the Oregon bench at the end of the season, the beginning of the season was a time of reveling for the Ducks. The first victory over Oregon State since 1997 came on Dec. 13. Kearney's men also placed high in three December tournaments, including a sixth-place finish at the Reno Tournament of Champions.

The 2000-01 Duck roster boasted the most talented lineup in years, with two All-Americans, four

NCAA qualifiers, five Pac-10 placers and a junior college champion.

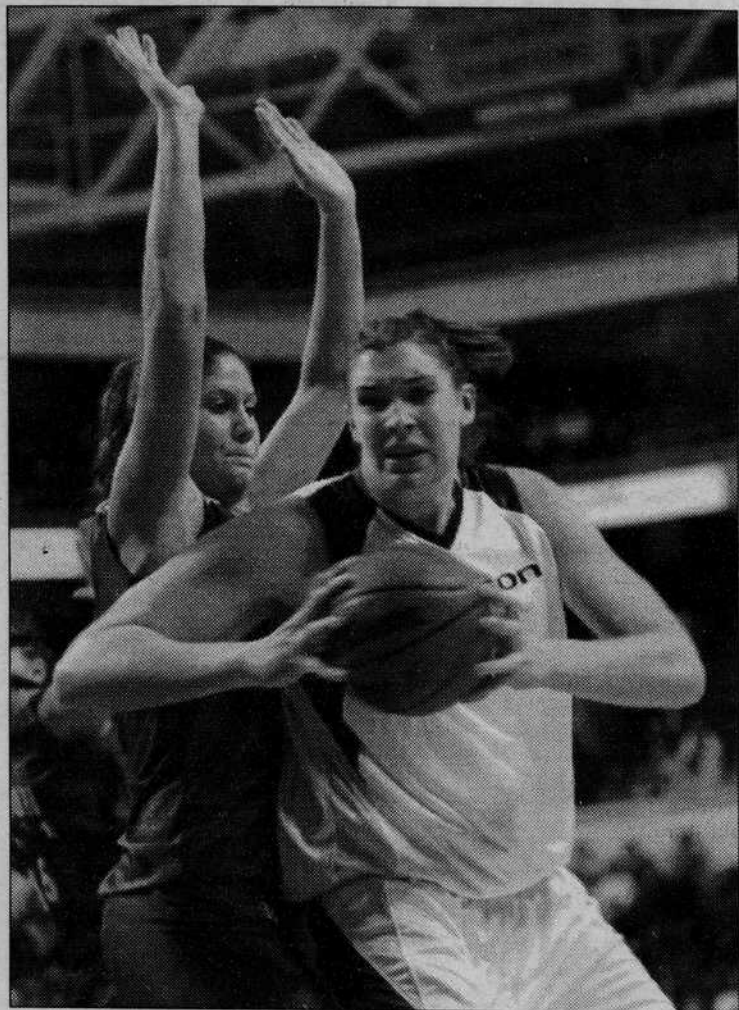
Kearney has also left the team in good standing for the future. Although they lose senior All-Americans and team leaders Lee and Chael Sonnen to graduation this spring, 13 other wrestlers will return. Pac-10 placers Shaun Williams, Watson, sophomore Casey Hunt, Overstake, Harris and Luke Larwin will all return.

Before the 2002 season, however, the wrestlers mentioned above will have a chance to end the 2001 season on a high note at the NCAA Championships.

Fans can also look forward to the return of injured wrestlers Matt Lee, Jake Leair, and David Watson.

A strong recruiting class will join the Ducks next season, led by the nation's top 171-pounder, Shane Webster of Central Point's Crater High School. Top recruits Chet McBee and Neil Phillips are other early signees.

"With the schedules and recruiting and strides we made this season, we are going to be one of the perennial powers in the nation," Kearney said. "If the process is right, the product will be all right."



Senior forward Jenny Mowe broke the Oregon record for most games played last weekend. In five years, she has played in 122 games.

Women's

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That may be the last we hear from the Ducks in a while.

Do you agree with ... the players?

The Emerald's weekly sports poll asks your opinion about the Runge fiasco. Thus far, 87 percent of the 23 voters think that this should be Runge's final year at the helm of the reigning Pacific-10 Conference championship team.

Just three voters want her to stay. What do you think? Log on to www.dailyemerald.com and click on the sports section to cast your vote.

Meanwhile, in Corvallis

The red-hot Oregon State team, winners of five straight, are well aware of the Eugene turmoil.

Following an uneventful practice Tuesday, Beaver coach Judy Spoelstra said the Oregon meeting will not likely affect the Ducks' preparation for the Civil War.

"We're trying to keep it as separate as possible, but lately a lot of people keep bringing it to our attention," Spoelstra said. "The bottom line is that the players are the ones who play the game, the coaches

don't have to go out there and play the game.

"It's an unfortunate situation for all the parties involved, the coaches, the players and the administrators involved, it doesn't make it easy on anybody. But know that Oregon, their players, are going to be ready to go."

Oregon State comes to Mac Court Saturday, a place where it has not won since 1993.

And on the court

In what could be the final game of the season, Oregon sharp-shooter Jamie Craighead will try to add to her school-record 75 three-pointers this season.

The junior guard from Elma, Wash., hit 6 treys against Arizona last Saturday to surpass Missy Croshaw's previous mark of 70 three-pointers set during the 1993-94 campaign.

Mowin' 'em all down

Senior center Jenny Mowe set the Oregon record for games played last Thursday against Arizona State. Mowe, a five-year Duck who red-shirted the 1997-98 season because of tendinitis in her right knee, has played in 122 games. The previous record was 120, held by Lauri Landerholm (1982-87).

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