

Wrestlers open season 2-0

■ The Ducks defeat Stanford and Cal-Davis on Saturday to begin the year on a high note

By Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon wrestling squad has started its season on the right track.

After soundly beating Stanford on Saturday afternoon, the Ducks faced California-Davis in the night-cap and came away with win No. 2 of the season.

Head coach Chuck Kearney said there was some nervousness heading into the first match against Stanford.

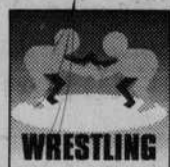
"We still dominated and still did a good job but were a little bit flat in that first competition," Kearney said.

The team bounced back, though, for the evening meet against Cal-Davis, allowing only three take-downs in all 10 weight classes. Against Stanford, the Ducks were taken down 10 times, while recording 27 of their own.

"We wrestled with real good intensity and dominated in all areas: on our feet, on top and on the bottom," Kearney said.

Freshman Elias Soto at 184 pounds was the only Oregon wrestler to lose his individual match against Stanford. In all the other weight classes, Oregon came away with wins to bring the final score to 29-4.

In the second meet against Cal-Davis, a 31-9 win, the Ducks lost two matches. Branson Phillips was pinned by Cal-Davis's Jerimiah Jarvis in the 157-pound match, and Eugene Harris lost a double overtime decision 2-1 to Burt Pierson at 165 pounds.



Harris, a senior who wrestled at 157 pounds the last two seasons, came out strong in his first competition at 165 pounds. He led the way for the Ducks with the biggest margin of victory in the Stanford match, an 18-9 major decision over John Garfinkel.

Freshman Shane Webster came away from the trip to Stanford with his first two collegiate wins, 24-17 over Stanford and 18-12 over Cal-Davis. The other starting freshman for Kearney's squad, Soto, rebounded from his loss

against Stanford to defeat Cal-Davis's Bret Hallenbeck, 9-2.

"(Soto) made some freshman mistakes in his first match that cost him, and a lot of times when you are young it is easy to let that snowball into the second match," Kearney said. "He did a real good job of coming back and competing after a defeat, and had a nice win against Cal-Davis."

Jason Harless and Jake Leair, both of whom redshirted last season after competing as true freshmen, won their matches. Harless, wrestling at 133 pounds, recorded a major decision (13-3) against Urijah Faber of Cal-Davis and beat Justin Walker of Stanford 5-3. Both Faber and Walker are near the top wrestlers in the conference in the 133-pound weight class.

Other Oregon wrestlers who won both their matches were Shaun Williams at 125, with a major decision against Cal-Davis; Brian Watson at 141; Tony Overstake at 149; and Eric Webb at the heavy-weight level.

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Hockey sweeps UCLA in consecutive routs

■ Mike Tornabene scores four goals in Saturday's 10-3 win over the Bruins

By Mindi Rice
for the Emerald

With the help of two hat tricks and improving defensive play, the Oregon Club Sports hockey team swept UCLA last weekend at Lane County Ice Arena.



Following a disappointing road trip the previous weekend, the Ducks came out looking for two conference wins at home. Oregon scored first on Friday night and took a 3-0 lead.

UCLA scored on a power play in the second period, but didn't score again as the Ducks stymied the Bruins offense. Oregon scored three during the third period and won 6-1.

Doug Washburn scored one goal in the first period and two

in the third to lead the Ducks in scoring. Mike Tornabene had four assists.

Saturday night was a different story for the Bruins — at least for the first few minutes.

UCLA gave Oregon and its fans a scare when the Bruins took a 3-1 lead in the first period, but the Ducks came back to tie the game at three with two seconds left in the first.

Toward the end of the second period, Oregon scored three goals within two minutes to take the 6-3 lead. The Ducks went on to score four goals in the third while keeping UCLA's offense in check. Oregon won 10-3.

Tornabene led scoring with four goals and Nathan Vogel had three assists.

Tornabene and Washburn both had four goals on the weekend. Oregon over-powered the favored UCLA team in both games. UCLA was shut down by goalie Joe Fagliano and the Ducks defense with four goals

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Should Washington State lose to Washington on Saturday in the Apple Cup, the Ducks could lose to the Beavers and still be guaranteed at least a berth in the Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., on New Year's Day. Should the Cougars win, though, Oregon would continue to reap the benefits from its win in Pullman, Wash., and gain those bonus BCS points.

"I don't worry about that," Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti said Monday. "I don't root for anybody other than the Ducks. We need to do the best we can to try and get a victory in the Civil War."

"There are still a lot of what-ifs." Anything is possible in the remaining weeks of the season, but good teams need to lose to give Oregon a chance at sneaking up even more.

"I don't know how it all works exactly but a couple of teams still have some big games left," quarterback Joey Harrington said.

Florida is the team on the rise with remaining computer-friendly games against No. 21 Florida State and No. 6 Tennessee. Miami has reached the meat of its schedule and after surviving a Boston College scare, now must tread through No. 14 Syracuse, No. 16 Washington and No. 18 Virginia Tech.

And then there's the Big 12

teams in Nebraska and Oklahoma. The Sooners have only Texas Tech and Oklahoma State left, but then must win in the league championship game on Dec. 1. Oklahoma's opponent in that game will be decided on Nov. 24 when second-ranked Nebraska visits No. 15 Colorado.

As for Texas, it needs a Sooner loss and a victory against Texas A&M to play in the Big 12 title game and keep its Rose Bowl hopes alive.

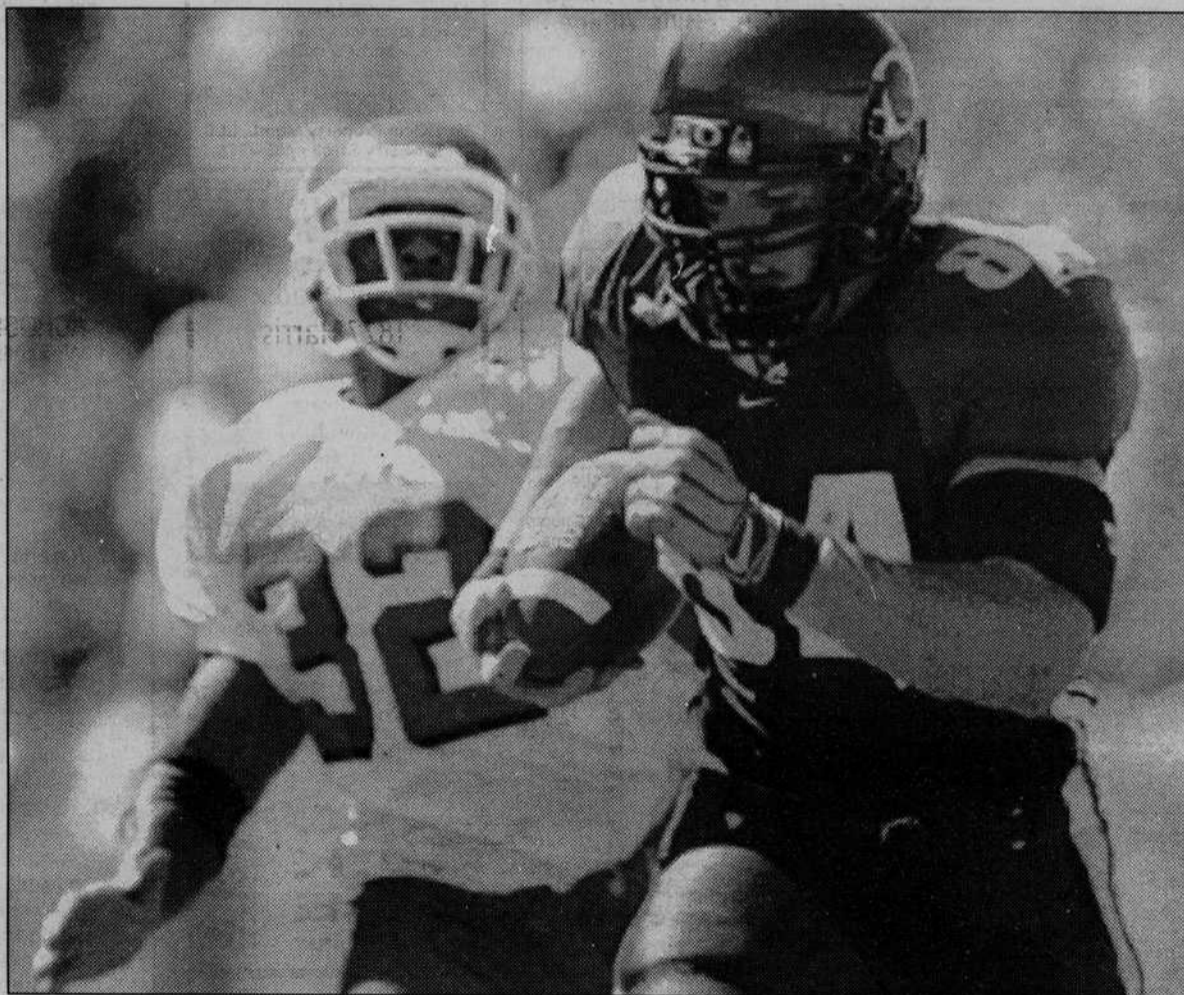
A good scenario for the Ducks would be if they beat the Beavers, and Miami (8-0), Florida (8-1) and Oklahoma (9-1) all lost once, leaving Oregon possibly in a date with Nebraska (11-0) on Jan. 3.

"We can't really think about or dwell on those games because it's not in our hands," Bauman said. "We let that slip away when we lost to Stanford. If it's two undefeated teams left at the end, then they deserve to play, without a doubt. If it's not, who knows."

"I'm definitely ready to go to the Rose Bowl if they call, but whatever one we get into will be the game that we deserve."

Added Bellotti: "We know we're going to be in a bowl game, we just don't know which one, and obviously we're hoping to get to the very best bowl game possible."

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Adam Amato Emerald

Senior tight end Justin Peelle, seen here against Utah on Sept. 8, said he thought the BCS had written the Ducks off for the national title hunt. In the latest BCS poll released Monday, Oregon was ranked No. 4, just ahead of Florida.

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