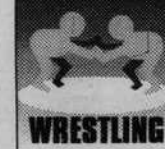


Ducks hope to continue good start

■ After opening its season 2-0 last weekend, the Oregon wrestling team is set to begin the Southern Oregon Open

By Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon wrestlers will continue with their quest for the Pacific-10 Conference title at the annual Southern Oregon Open on Saturday.



Because it is an open match, the Ducks (2-0 overall) will be sending 22 wrestlers, nine of whom will compete as unattached wrestlers, which will not affect their redshirt seasons.

Four of Oregon's wrestlers are ranked in the top-20 in the country at their weight class: No. 9 Shaun Williams at 125 pounds, No. 10

Eric Webb at heavyweight, No. 14 Eugene Harris at 165 pounds and No. 20 Brian Watson at 141.

Harris (1-1) is the only one of those wrestlers who lost one of his first two matches last weekend at Stanford. In addition to Watson, Williams and Webb, four other Oregon wrestlers are 2-0 on the season — Jason Harless, Tony Overstake, Shane Webster and Jake Leair.

Heading into last weekend's matches against Stanford and California-Davis, the Ducks were ranked No. 4 in the Pac-10 behind Arizona State, Oregon State and Boise State. Both the Beavers and the Cowboys from Boise State will be in attendance at the Southern Oregon Open.

Along with those two rivals, the Ducks will face a variety of opponents from a total of 16 teams, with each squad bringing a large number of competitors.

"It will be an opportunity for

us to compete at a variety of levels from junior varsity guys to nationally ranked guys, so it will be a nice test," head coach Chuck Kearney said.

The goal of the Oregon wrestling squad this season is to win the Pac-10 tournament, and these early matches should give Kearney and the rest of the team a good indication of where they stand. The Ducks want to improve each week and feel that they are committed to getting that done, Kearney said.

"Our chemistry is real positive," he said. "It's important in wrestling, even though it is such an individual sport that we have a good atmosphere to train in."

"These guys have a positive attitude and are excited about what we are doing."

Chris Cabot is a sports reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald. He can be reached at chriscabot@dailyemerald.com.

Sports briefs

Repairs to Hayward Field begin

Work has begun to repair deteriorating support beams under the east grandstands of Hayward Field and should be completed in time for the start of the Oregon's spring track and field season, Athletic Director Bill Moos announced Thursday.

The project will restore use of the entire grandstands on the east side of one of the most renowned track facilities in the world. The University spent approximately \$100,000 last winter for temporary repairs to retain use of the majority of the east grandstands throughout the 2001 track season.

Lee Construction of Eugene provided the winning bid for the restoration, which will cost about \$300,000.

The project was originally expected to cost the University more than \$1 million.

Arizona signs basketball standouts

TUCSON, Ariz. (U-WIRE) — Though no games were played, the Arizona men's basketball team had a pretty productive week.

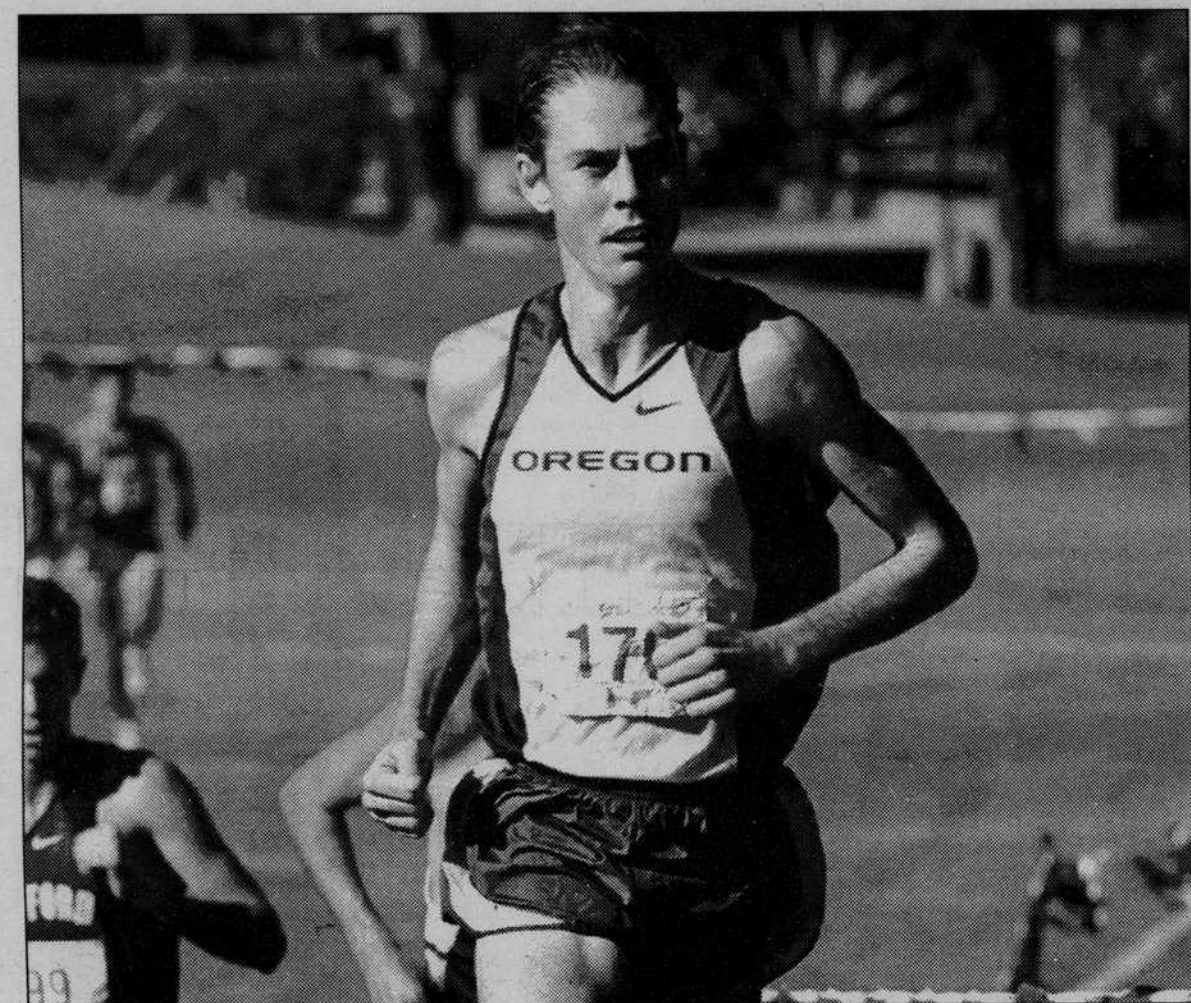
Days removed from winning the Coaches vs. Cancer IKON Classic in New York, head coach Lute Olson got some more good news — Hassan Adams from Los Angeles and Chris Rodgers of Portland signed letters of intent to play for the Wildcats.

"Both of these guys will fit in beautifully here at Arizona," Olson said. "They are great kids; they work hard and are very solid students."

Rodgers and Adams, both 6-foot-4 guards, have been highly touted by national publications.

The Sporting News ranked Adams as the sixth-best high school shooting guard in the country and Rodgers the fourth-best point guard.

— Jeff Lund
(Arizona Daily Wildcat)



Geoff Thurner Oregon Media Services

Bergquist

continued from page 9

ual sport, Bergquist will be the first to tell you otherwise. He said the team's goals are much more important than individual success.

"(Your teammates) are doing their job and doing the best they can for you, and you are doing your best to not let them down," Bergquist said.

Head coach Martin Smith, in his third year at Oregon, said Bergquist is a pleasure to work with.

"I think the thing that I tend to appreciate and respect and admire about Adam is he really enjoys the process of being on a team and working hard every day," Smith said.

Bergquist did not place in a scoring role for the Ducks (except for a "B" Unit race in September) until the Pac-10 Championships. If his slow start in the fall instilled some doubt in the minds of the other Oregon runners about Bergquist's ability to lead the team, their reservations have disappeared as the season has progressed. Through his work ethic and experience, Bergquist has become a teammate to look to for advice and leadership.

"I think that it took some time this season for (the other runners) to see me in that role just because nobody, including myself, knew where I was going to be as far as being able to help the team," he said.

The team is now aware of Bergquist's love of running and desire to win.

"He's definitely on a mission," sophomore Brett Holts said about Bergquist's desire to go to the NCAA Championships, something he has not had the opportunity to do before Monday's race.

Bergquist credits much of his newfound prowess on the cross country course to getting his strength back after his long layoff from running. Much of this strength comes from his faith, Bergquist said.

"I look at it as a total blessing and opportunity," he said. "My main motivation is to do the best with what God has given me — both in renewed strength and another opportunity."

Bergquist is accustomed to dealing with pain that running has caused him as he has had injuries to his knees, hamstring, hip flexor and Achilles tendon before this latest affliction to his foot. His faith in God was a light at the end of the tunnel that helped him through the tough winter and spring dealing with his most recent pain, he said.

On Monday, Oregon will accomplish its goal of reaching the NCAA Championships, where the Ducks hope Bergquist will lead them to success.

Chris Cabot is a sports reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald. He can be reached at chriscabot@dailyemerald.com.

Adam Bergquist, the lone senior on the cross country team, finished 11th in the Pac-10 Championships last week in Tucson, Ariz.

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