

SPORTS

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Adam Amato Emerald

Oregon forward Luke Jackson reaches in for a steal against Pepperdine's Mike Westphal. The Ducks beat Pepperdine, 88-64, on Dec. 14 at the Pit.

Formula for success, and failure

The Oregon men have already exhibited patterns of winning and losing in the season's opening months

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

Oregon head coach Ernie Kent called it a "blueprint."

Oregon players called it a "formula." By whatever name, the Oregon men's basketball team has exhibited clear patterns, some positive and some negative, in recent play.

On the positive side, the Ducks have been dominating opponents at home. In five home games over winter break, Oregon beat up its competition by an average of 29.6 points. Two of those wins were over Arizona and Arizona State, Pacific-10 Conference teams that the Ducks beat by a combined 43 points.

In those wins, Kent said, his team exhibited the same qualities, his "blueprint." The Ducks shot sharply (an average of 52.6 percent from the floor), played tough defense (holding opponents to 38.9 percent shooting), and hit the boards (the

Ducks outrebounded opponents 37-30). Heading into last weekend's games at Arizona and Arizona State, Oregon was 9-3 overall, 3-0 in the Pac-10 and sitting on top of the conference standings.

But that's where the negative formula comes into view. After an impressive win over the Wildcats 90-80 in Tucson, a game where the Ducks made the formidable McKale Center look like McArthur Court, Oregon reverted back to old ways with a close loss to Arizona State in Tempe. The loss was the Ducks' fourth by less than 10 points. During break, Oregon dropped a close game on the road to Minnesota, a week after nail-biting losses at Massachusetts and Portland.

Still, the Ducks emerged from the Turn to Men's, page 12



Harris proving to be leader of UO wrestling

Senior Eugene Harris is No. 6 in the country and ready to take on the Pac-10

By Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald

In his final year of collegiate wrestling, senior Eugene Harris is performing better than he ever has and dominating opponents in his 165-pound weight class.

Harris lost 3-2 to Tyrone Lewis of Oklahoma State on Dec. 16th, but since then he's been unstoppable.

After the loss, he went on to compete in the 15-team Reno Tournament of Champions. Harris swept the competition, winning all four of his matches and earning the individual title for his weight class.

Then, after a pin of his opponent in the second period at Nebraska on Jan. 3, Harris earned a major decision over No. 15 Nate Lawrenz of Northern Iowa on Jan. 5.

Heading into the Tournament of Champions, Harris was ranked No. 10,

but due to his recent success, he has risen to No. 6.

"Eugene is wrestling with confidence," head coach Chuck Kearney said. "He is focusing on the actual wrestling and not concerning himself with the ultimate results."

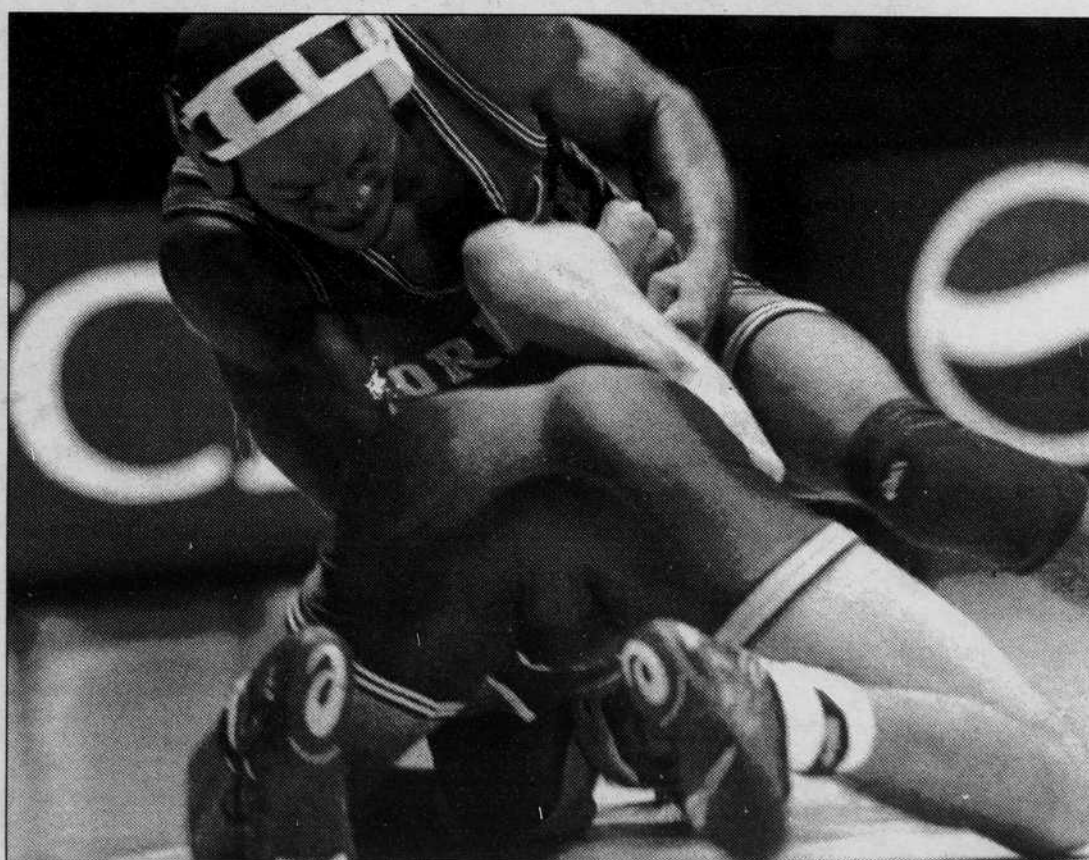
"He's having the kind of year that we've known he's been capable of, and he's known he's been capable of."

Harris is using his increased quickness and technique this year to win matches by double digits when last year many of his decisions were decided by the smallest of margins. He refuses to be distracted by his mid-season ranking, though.

"If you start to think about your ranking, you start to think about winning and losing, and that is the worst thing you can do when you are wrestling," Harris said. "I think about the one guy I'm wrestling



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Emerald

Ranked No. 6 in the country at 165 pounds, senior Eugene Harris (top) has lost just one match this season.

Freshman opts to leave Oregon

A highly-touted recruit, Catherria Turner leaves the Ducks after playing just six games as a freshman

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

After playing in six games for the women's basketball team, freshman Catherria Turner has been granted her release from the University.

"Catherria has asked to be released from her scholarship for the 2002-03 academic/athletic year, and this request has been granted," head coach Bev Smith said.

In a guard-heavy lineup, Turner posted five points and three steals in limited action this season. The Tucson, Ariz., native averaged a triple-double her senior season at Amphitheatre High.

The 5-foot-6 Turner was one of six freshman to join the Ducks this season. The recruiting class was the nation's 17th-ranked class in the country.

Stanford ready to return to top

Here's a trivia question for all you Pacific-10 Conference buffs out there.

Name one sport Stanford doesn't excel at.

Football? Nope, they've got that covered.

Baseball? They've been to the championship game of the College World Series the last two seasons.

Volleyball? Think again. They just won the national championship.

Basketball? Well, that's the most obvious of all. Their men's team is as tough as ever, and the Cardinal women, well, they are annually one of the best in the nation.

This season is no different for the women from Palo Alto, Calif. Ranked fifth in the Associated Press Top 25 poll and sixth in the ESPN/USA Today Top 25, the Cardinal are 14-1 overall, and have already begun conference play with a perfect 4-0 record.

The Cardinal return 10 letterwinners from a squad that won a share of the Pac-10 championship last season. Name a position, and Stanford has depth at it.

"I think the conference tournament will reward depth, and that will be one of our strengths," Stanford head coach Tara VanDerveer said at the outset of the season.

The 2001 Pac-10 Freshman of the Year, Nicole Powell, returns to the Cardinal this season after posting 14.1 points per game last season. The Phoenix, Ariz., native has picked up where she left off, averaging 15.8 points per game, and has recorded two triple-doubles this season. No other Pac-10

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