

## SPORTS

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Best Bet  
NCAA basketball:  
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# Men survive Cougs' best try to stay ahead of Pac

The Oregon men's basketball team gets out of Washington with a split and a share of the conference lead

By Peter Hockaday  
Oregon Daily Emerald

For the second game in a row, a team played up to the Oregon men Saturday night, but this time the Ducks stomped them down.

Oregon (15-5 overall, 7-2 Pacific-10 Conference) stayed atop the Pac-10 standings by beating Washington State (4-14, 0-10) 94-86 in Pullman. The Ducks got career highs from sophomore guards James Davis, who netted 21 points, and Luke Ridnour, who scored 24.

"We knew that team wasn't going to come in here and quit," Oregon head

coach Ernie Kent told KUGN-radio after the game. "Especially with the Pac-10 Tournament sitting down there, these teams all have something to play for, and they need Ws."



Kent was referring to Washington State's play, which was above average for the team that has yet to win a Pac-10

contest. The Cougars' 86 points were well above their per-game average of 71, and were the most for Washington

State in league play this year. The Cougars are playing for a place in the season-ending Pac-10 Tournament, which will feature the conference's top eight teams only.

"This was their best game of the year, just like Washington where they came back on us and everything," Kent said. "That's a credit to coach (Paul) Graham, because they always, always play hard up here, which is what makes it such a tough trip."

Two days after Washington's Doug Wrenn dropped 32 points on Oregon to

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## Men's Basketball

	Overall	Pac-10
1. Oregon	7-2	15-4
USC	7-2	15-5
3. UCLA	6-3	14-5
Arizona	6-3	13-6
5. California	5-3	14-4
Stanford	5-3	12-5
7. Arizona St.	4-5	11-7
8. Oregon St.	3-6	10-9
9. Washington	2-8	8-12
10. Washington St.	0-10	4-14



Thomas Patterson Emerald

Senior Ednisha Curry scores two of her eight points Saturday with UCLA's Brianna Winn (2) defending. Oregon defeated the Bruins 76-54 to move into a four-way tie for second place.

# Women get back in Pac-10 hunt

■ A 76-54 victory over UCLA puts the Ducks in a logjam for second place in the Pac-10

By Hank Hager  
Oregon Daily Emerald

And then there were four.

With a 76-54 win over UCLA on Saturday at McArthur Court, the Oregon women's basketball team is now in a four-way tie for second place in the Pacific-10 Conference.

Arizona State, Southern California and Oregon State are also three and a half games behind Stanford for first place in the conference, and all have seven games left.

After sweeping their first weekend series since late December, the Ducks (12-8 overall, 7-4 Pac-10) have brought themselves back from the depths.

"We looked at this series, thinking that it was probably a moment where could get some separation," Oregon head coach Bev Smith said. "Right now, I think we're back in the thick of it."

The first 30 minutes of Saturday night's play pointed everywhere but up for Oregon.

Shooting a woeful 25 percent from the field in the first half, Oregon looked more like a team destined to finish in the bottom third of the conference. UCLA (5-14, 2-9), demolished by Oregon State by 45 points Thursday, did not look much better, but capitalized on Oregon miscues.

The halftime score read something that most wouldn't have imagined entering the game. UCLA led 27-26.

Time to panic? Maybe, but the Ducks sure didn't.

"I think we were able to get over our early woes and put them away," junior Shaquala Williams said. "They played hard, but I think we were just sloppy at points of the game."

Sloppy may be an understatement. The Bruins were able to take the ball away from the Ducks 13 times, and scored 13 points off 16 Oregon turnovers.

The Bruins were not much better. Oregon was not as successful in taking the ball away from the Bruins, recording four steals, but UCLA could not hold on to the ball. Eighteen Bruin turnovers led to 23 Oregon points.

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Shaquala Williams  
Oregon guard

"We were able to get over our early woes and put them away."

## Pac-10 Women's Basketball

	Overall	Pac-10
Stanford	20-1	10-0
Arizona St.	16-6	7-4
<b>Oregon</b>	<b>12-8</b>	<b>7-4</b>
Oregon St.	12-9	7-4
USC	11-9	7-4
Washington	11-8	6-4
Arizona	10-10	6-5
UCLA	5-14	2-9
California	6-13	1-9
Washington St.	2-18	0-10

# Healthy again, UO wrestlers earn two victories on Friday

■ Harless, Overstake and Webster battled for successful returns to the mat over Pacific and Central Washington at McArthur Court

By Chris Cabot  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Although Pacific and Central Washington aren't quite the caliber of opponents Oregon is used to facing, the Ducks came away from McArthur Court with two wins Friday night to improve their record to 5-4 overall.

The Pacific Boxers, a Division III school, dropped its record to 9-9, while

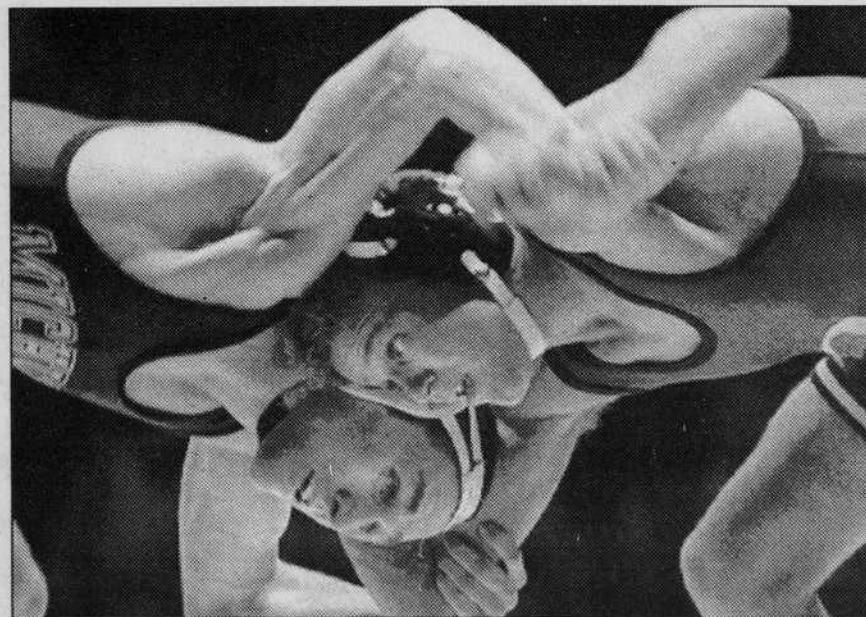
the Division II Central Washington Wildcats fell to 7-7.

Oregon has been plagued with injuries to key wrestlers most of the season, but only Eric Webb's toe injury remains unhealed. The Ducks forfeited the heavyweight class in both of Friday's meets because of Webb's injury.

Jason Harless, Shane Webster and Tony Overstake all returned to the mat from long layoffs and senior Shaun Williams is continuing to grow stronger after battling with an ankle injury.

Williams (125 pounds), who is ranked No. 13 by Intermat, recorded a

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Adam Amato Emerald

Senior Shaun Williams (right) helped the Ducks claim two wins Friday at Mac Court. Williams is now 8-2 and ranked 13th in the nation in the 125-pound weight class.