

SPORTS

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Best Bet
Olympics:
Alpine Skiing
7:30 p.m., NBC



Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Oregon wrestling team eyes victory in Civil War

■ In the first Civil War meeting of the year, the Beavers defeated the Ducks in a 16-16 decision

By Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald

With only two more dual meets remaining in their schedule before the Pacific-10 Championships begin March 2, the Oregon wrestling team is looking to finish the regular season on a high note at home.

The 7-7 Ducks (3-4 Pac-10) host Oregon State today at 7:30 p.m. at McArthur Court before finishing with Portland State on Feb. 20.

In the first edition of the wrestling Civil War on Dec. 12, the Beavers (11-7 overall and 6-1 in the Pac-10) escaped with a win in the 16-16 meet. A new rule for the 2001-02 season states that no dual meet shall end in a tie, and a list of criteria were established to determine a winner. In the Dec. 12 meet, a winner was not determined

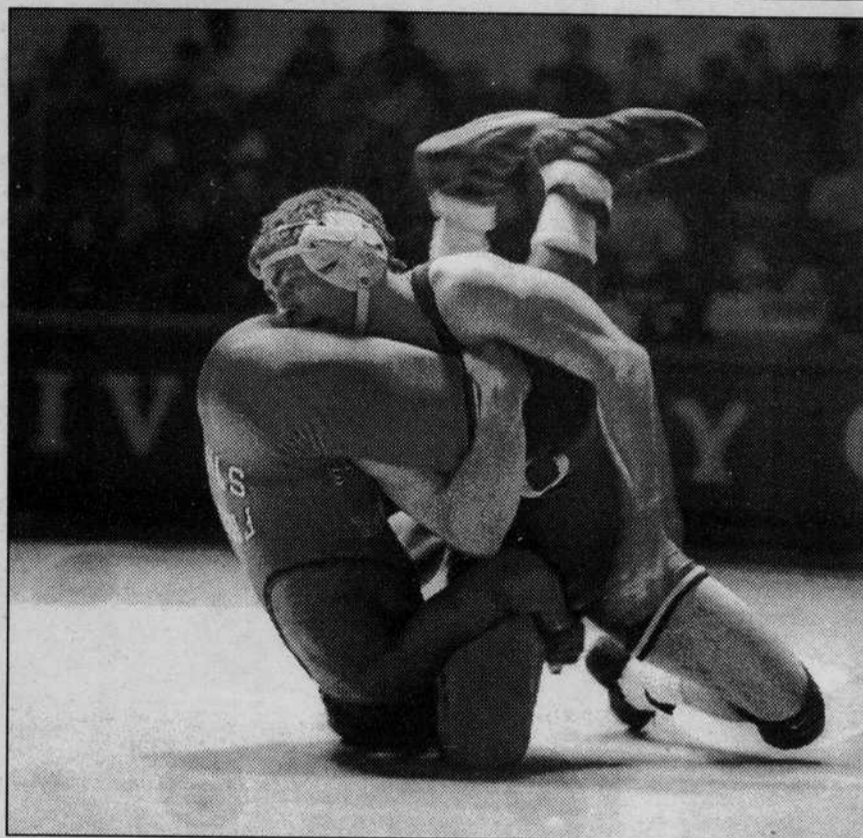
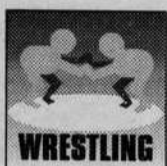
until the seventh criteria level. Oregon State had two near fall points to Oregon's zero, which gave them the win based on criteria "g."

Both schools have recently competed against the same three opponents. The Ducks are coming off a 2-1 weekend where they lost to Cal Poly and defeated Cal State-Bakersfield and No. 21 Fresno State. Oregon State's weekend included a win over Bakersfield and a loss to Fresno State. The previous weekend on Jan. 27, the Beavers defeated Cal Poly.

Arizona State is ranked No. 1 in the Pac-10 with the Beavers in second. Oregon holds the No. 4 spot with Boise State sitting between the two Oregon schools.

Oregon State has had its way with

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Adam Jones Emerald

Oregon's 141-pounder Brian Watson (right) is ranked No. 20 in the nation. He will face Oregon State's No. 11 Casey Horn, who defeated Watson 6-4 in their first meeting this season in Corvallis.

ON TAP

What:
Oregon wrestling
(7-7 overall,
3-4 Pac-10)
vs. Oregon State
(11-7, 6-1)
When:
7:30 p.m. today
Where:
McArthur Court

Pac-10 again becoming a wild, wild west

■ Arizona is the conference leader, but that could change soon with five other teams now standing less than two games back

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

Remember what those crazy Pacific-10 Conference football standings looked like in the fall with less than one month to play in the regular season?

Oregon, Washington and Washington State all shared first-place on Nov. 5 with UCLA and Stanford breathing down their necks.

Anything could have happened at that point with the Ducks not knowing whether they'd be playing their bowl game in Tempe, Ariz., San Diego, Seattle or even Las Vegas.

But Oregon survived a trip to UCLA and a wet Civil War to claim a berth in the Fiesta Bowl as sole possessors of first place.

Now, it's the Oregon men's basketball team's turn to see if it can do the same.

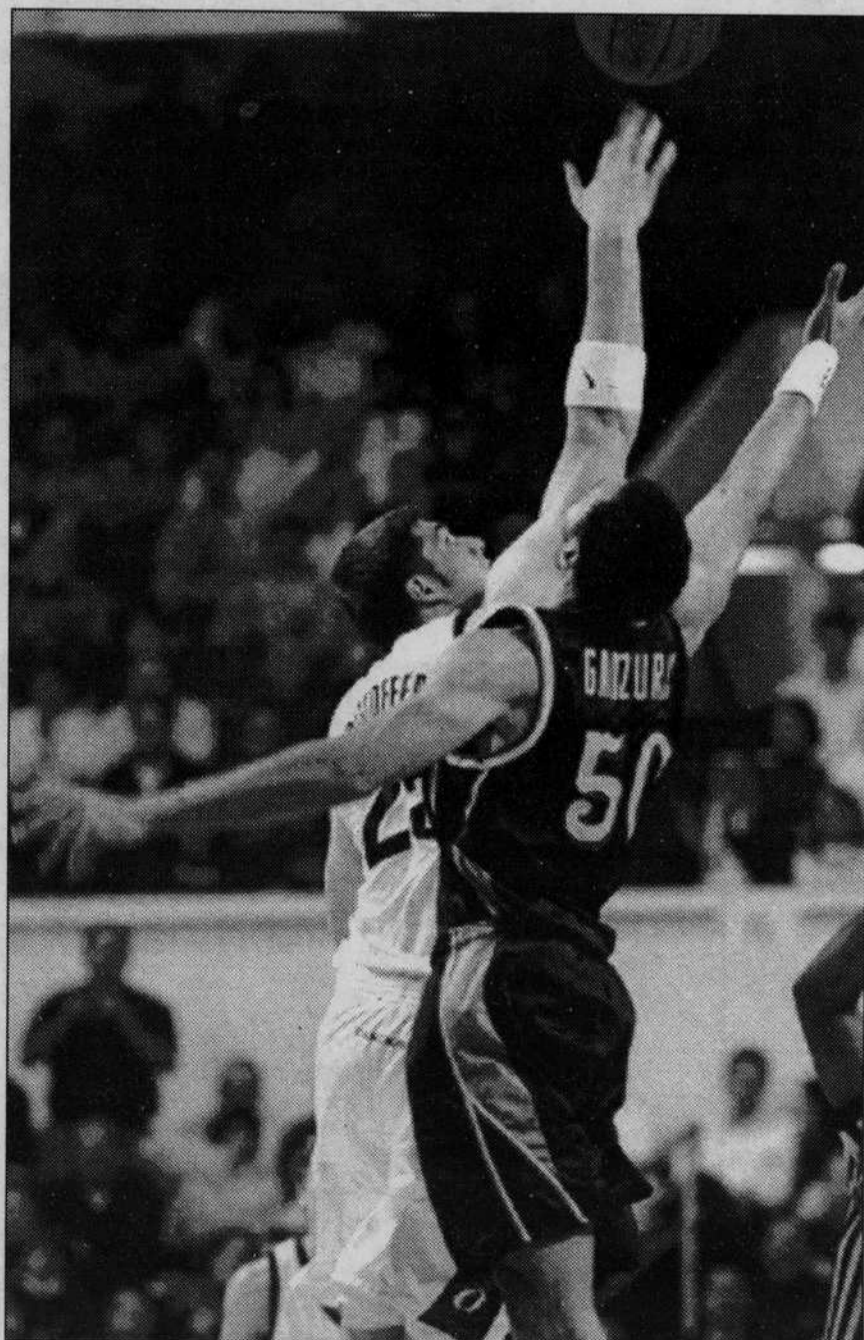
The Pac-10 standings are again muddled with the top six men's hoops teams separated by just a game-and-a-half.

Oregon's grip on first place finally slipped after its two overtime defeats in the Bay Area, and Arizona jumped to the top spot after sweeping the Washington schools. The Ducks are in second by themselves, but California, Stanford, USC and UCLA are all tied for third a half-game back from Oregon.

"We're playing in a great conference, and I don't think it's surprising that we have six teams competing for the top spot," Cal head coach Ben Braun said. "It's just remarkable how much parity there is this year."

Like football, anything can happen

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Adam Amato Emerald

UP FOR GRABS: Oregon's Chris Christoffersen and UCLA's Dan Gadzuric are both on teams that have strong chances of winning the Pac-10 title — but the same goes for four others.

Spring training softens the heart

The Expos are still in Montreal, the Twins are in the Twin Cities and Bud Selig is still commissioner of Major League Baseball.

Somehow.

Break out the bats and balls and get the spikes out of the closet. On Thursday, the sun rises and the flowers bloom, at least metaphorically — pitchers and catchers will report to spring training.

It is the time of the year where hope springs eternal. The grass is just beginning to turn that beautiful shade of green, and the dew from the early morning is just right on those small blades of grass.

The crack of the bat is audible and has that sweet sound to it. Pitchers run wind sprints during games, hoping not to have to dodge long fly-balls hit by the opposing team's batters.

And the fans can see a game without having to fork over \$50 to sit four levels above the playing field.

It almost makes a person want to move to Arizona for that one month.

The games are played at places like Scottsdale Stadium, Chain of Lakes Park and even Baseball City Stadium. These fields and parks don't have the distant memories and ghosts of past greats, but they do have an innocence about them.



Hank

Hager

Behind the dish

Sponsorship deals haven't invaded these pearls of baseball purity. There is no "Enron" stapled to the boards at Hi Corbett Field in Tucson, Ariz. "Safeco" isn't plastered on the walls of the entrance to Peoria Stadium in Arizona.

The game is pure and natural to the fans who invade the turnstiles during the weekdays during spring training. The sweet Arizona sun and Florida mornings lend to the purity of spring training. Regular season games used to be played primarily during the day. Night games were the minority.

Now, all but a handful of teams play most, or all regular season games under fake light.

But that isn't the case during spring training. Pitchers throw under the gleaming glow of the sun, the way the game was meant to be played. Batters have to account for the shadows overhead, and infielders have to shield their eyes from deep blue skies.

Beautiful.

The way the sun lights up the grass and brings the game alive is unrivaled by any other sport.

Football may have its rain, snow and sleet, basketball its

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