Oregon Daily Emerald

Sports Editor: Adam Jude adamjude@dailyemerald.com **Assistant Sports Editor:** Jeff Smith jeffsmith@dailyemerald.com

SPORTS

Best Bet NCAA: N.C. State at Duke 4 p.m., ESPN



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Oregon wrestlers battle back to beat Beavers

■ The Ducks turn an 11-0 deficit into an 18-14 victory to split the season series with Oregon State

By Chris Cabot

Oregon Daily Emerald

In front of the 1,289 fans at McArthur Court, the largest crowd on hand this season, the Oregon wrestlers came up with an important Civil War victory.

The 18-14 win improved the Ducks' record to 8-7 overall and 4-4 in the Pacific-10 Conference, while Oregon State dipped to 11-8 and 6-2 in conference duals.

The Ducks lost the first three matches to go down 11-0, but stormed back winning the next six weight classes.

Junior Jason Harless came up with the key upset win that helped to turn the tide in Oregon's favor. Oregon State's senior captain and 133-pounder, Nathan Navarro, is ranked No. 19 in the country, but looked almost helpless against his in-state rival.

Harless came out with a bang, taking Navarro down 11 seconds into the match and maintaining top control for 1:22. In the second period, Harless threw Navarro down for a take down, earning two points, and then picked up another three near fall points for keeping Navarro on his back.

Prior to Harless' win, 125-pound Shaun Williams scored the first team points for Oregon in his return to the mat after missing four meets because he failed to make weight. After the first period ended with at 2-1 score in his favor, Williams opened the match up against Oregon State's Michael Delaney with a take down and a three-point near fall. The match ended with a score of 12-7.

Williams, ranked No. 12 in the country in his weight class, said that he knew that he could maintain the level that he has been wrestling at all season.

"I know I'm in shape - good enough shape to wrestle Pac-10s and nationals," he said.

The 11-0 deficit was not a factor in Williams' mind either.

'I didn't let (the score) bother me at all," he said. "I just went out there and wrestled my match.'

Oregon head coach Chuck Kearney was pleased with the way Williams wrestled in his return to dual meet action.

"Michael Delaney has beaten him in the past, not regularly but has done it before, and for Shaun to step out and dominate the action the way he did, that's a real good sign," Kearney said.

After Williams and Harless, Brian Watson, Casey Hunt, Tony Overstake and Eugene Harri all defeated their opponents.

Hunt, a junior, won the 149-pound match that put the Ducks on top of the scoreboard for good beating Jord an Barich, 5-4. With one minute left in the match, Hunt was leading 5-2, but Barich closed the gap with an escape and a locking arm penalty called on Hunt.

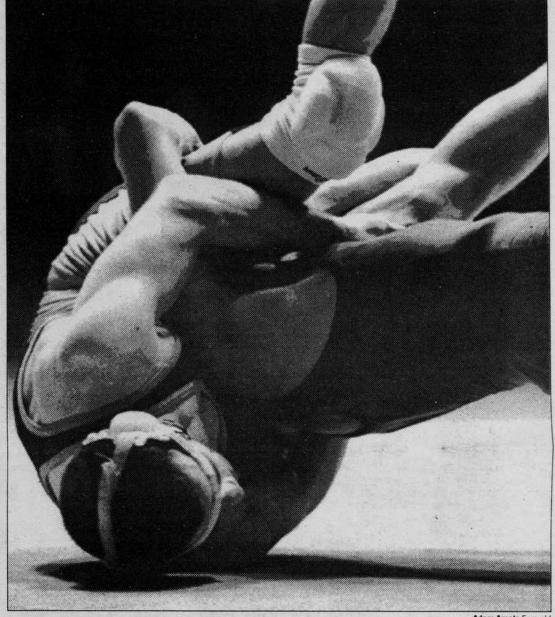
"Casey let up a little bit and didn't put it away like we hoped he would, but against Oregon State, a win is a win," Kearney said.

The Oregon head coach said that his team was over-excited heading into the match, partly due to motivation coming from the memories of the first Civil War dual meet of the season that the Beavers won in a 16-16 criteria decision.

"As a team, we looked like we really wanted to win this one, and we were a little bit too up," Kearney said. "We needed to settle down a little bit."

The Ducks did settle down and came up with a key victory with one dual meet remaining before the Pac-10 Championships.

E-mail sports reporter Chris Cabot at chriscabot@dailyemerald.com.



Oregon senior Shaun Williams (right) defeated Oregon State's Michael Delaney in a 12-7 decision. Oregon won the dual meet 18-14.

Kent asks Pit Crew to be 'respectful'

■ The Oregon coach modifies his comments from the USC game after reviewing the situation

By Peter Hockaday

Oregon Daily Emerald

Fans have been a little naughty. But they're still good. That's the message being conveyed by Oregon head coach Ernie Kent, who is still trying to put out a fire that started when Southern California head coach Henry Bibby ripped

Oregon's students for taunting him during the Ducks' most

Directly after hearing Bibby's comments, Kent said, "I don't know why that would be said," and avidly defended his Pit Crew's actions. But upon further reflection, Kent said he wants to make sure the students keep the intensity he loves without disrespecting opposing coaches or players.

"We can still be the most dominating home court not only in the Pac-10, but also in the country, yet do it in a very respectful and courteous way to our visitors," Kent said Wednesday. "It's important for the students to know that, because we need them to be successful.

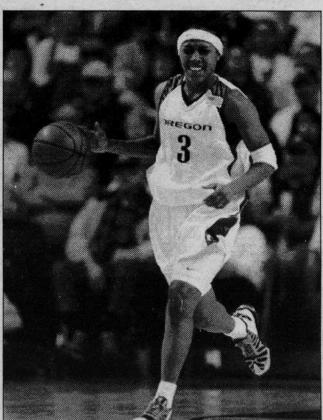
Kent said he felt somewhat assaulted by the media, who used his hasty comments in many stories the next day.

"I said this is an awesome crowd, this is a dominating crowd, and that's all that made the papers," Kent said. "And even at that time, I said 'As long as they handle themselves the right way, very respectfully.' But the media doesn't print that. I think that's wrong for the media to do that."

Kent said he has "put a call in" to Bibby after reviewing the tape of the game. Kent also wrote an e-mail to the Pit Crew Turn to Men's, page 16

Oregon junior guard Shaquala Williams needs just 30 points to move into ninth place on the school's all-time scoring list.

UO welcomes Williams into record books



Adam Amato Emerald

■ Shaquala Williams enters the Oregon history books again with 22 points against Stanford

By Hank Hager

Oregon Daily Emerald Swish.

It may not have been the most poetic way to do it, but Shaquala Williams' two free throws nine minutes into last week's contest against Stanford moved her into 10th place on Oregon's all-time scoring list.

But the way she has been shooting this season, it seems to be the most legitimate.

"I didn't even know how I scored it, but (free throws) makes sense," said Williams, a junior guard. "That's where I've been most consistent this season, so to do it that way is fitting.'

Her two points put the Ducks up by three, but Oregon eventually fell short in the loss to the Cardinal. Williams' 22 points were a team high, and she was the only Duck to finish in double figures.

However, that total is far from her career-high 31 points against Arizona State earlier this season.

'Scoring is just kind of what I do, and I know that I'm one of the top-10 scorers in the history of the program, and that's definitely an honor, but I'm more focused on getting this team back on track than to break into individual honors," Williams said.

The 2001-02 season has been a trying year for the junior from Portland. With a young squad, Williams is looked to as the team's main offensive leader. That has led opponents to focus on stopping just her, forcing others to take shots.

But that hasn't deterred Williams. In what was supposed to be her senior year - but isn't because of a knee injury

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