

SPORTS

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Best Bet
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UO wrestlers pound Portland State in last meet

■ In their last regular season dual, Oregon lost just two matches and cruised to a 38-7 victory over Portland State

By Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald

In the final dual meet of the year, Oregon defeated Portland State 38-7 in front of 469 fans at McArthur Court on Wednesday night.

The Ducks improved their record to 9-7 overall and 5-4 in the Pacific-10 Conference, while the Vikings dipped to 9-13 (3-6 Pac-10).

"We competed well," head coach Chuck Kearney said. "With this competition, we want our guys to understand that regardless of who you are wrestling, whether it is the best team

in the country or a middle team or whatever, that you go out with the same attitude and dominance."

The Oregon team next competes at the Pac-10 Tournament, where they will hope to maintain the momentum that has developed with Wednesday night's win and an 18-14 victory over Oregon State on Feb. 13.



"We're concerned with getting ourselves ready for the conference tournament," Kearney said. "Things that worked tonight will work against guys at Arizona State, Oregon State and Boise State. We want to have that attitude when we go into the conference tournament."

Before the match, seniors Shaun Williams (125 pounds) and Eugene Harris (165 pounds) were honored in their final home match, and both were able to come away with wins for the Ducks. In Harris's case, his final Mac Court win was not what he may have dreamed.

Portland State forfeited the 165-pound match, so Harris was able to pick up six team points for the Ducks to raise his total team points on the season to 94, which leads the squad. Although he did not get to actually wrestle for his last home win, Harris remained in his typically amiable attitude as he lifted his hand in victory for the last time at Mac Court.

In the 125-pound match Williams, ranked No. 10 in the country, won by a score of 10-7, im-

proving his record to 9-4.

Of Oregon's eight wins in the meet, six wrestlers earned bonus points for the team. Brian Watson and Casey Hunt both pinned their opponents and Eric Webb and Jason Harless scored technical falls by winning by a margin of 15 points.

Kearney was pleased with the way many of his wrestlers competed, including Jake Leair, who was one of two Ducks to lose his match.

"Jake Leair, even in the loss, did a good job of controlling the tempo of the match," Kearney said. "He needs to wrestle from start to finish. He eased up a little bit and gave up a takedown."

Oregon led from the start, winning the first four matches. Hunt (149 pounds) was ahead by a score of 19-8

when, with 36 seconds remaining, he pinned his opponent Casey Banks. He said he is excited about the way Oregon is competing heading into the conference tournament.

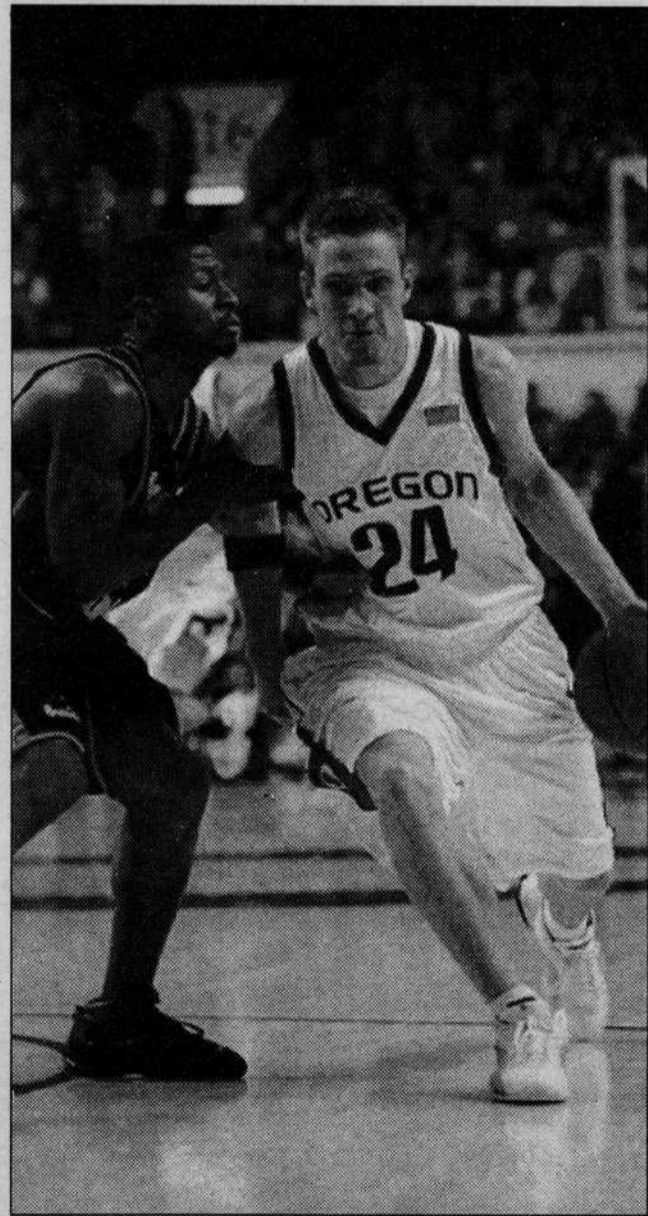
"A team like Portland State gave our guys a chance to open up and get big wins for us," Hunt said. "Any time you can come off a big win going into Pac-10s, that's great."

In the 133-pound match, Harless, a sophomore, improved his record to 14-5 with a 20-5 victory.

"My main intent going out there was to be intense and control the action, and for the most part I thought I did that," Harless said.

The Pac-10 Tournament will be held in Corvallis on March 2 and 3.

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Adam Amato Emerald

Senior guard Ben Lindquist has appreciated all that Oregon basketball has given him and is looking forward to his final two games at Mac Court.

A Basketball Court-ship

■ Two Oregon seniors prepare for their final games with support from their wives

By Jeff Smith
Oregon Daily Emerald

Amanda Michaelis' laugh reverberates through the phone.

"Oh, I'm sure he gets teased about it," she said. She then pauses, laughs again, and continues.

"Seriously, Mark is a wonderful person, and it's so nice to have someone like that in my life," she said. "I think being married has been a good thing for him as far as basketball goes. It has made this experience so fun."

No jokes from teammates could change the way Oregon senior Mark Michaelis and fellow senior Ben Lindquist feel about being married to their respective best friends. Michaelis married Amanda in the summer of 1999, while Lindquist married his wife, Joy, the following summer.

Lindquist, known as the team's jokester, said it's never too hard to find a stinging comeback if one of his teammates does attempt to tease him.

"There will be a few guys that try to throw a few jokes my way, but I'm pretty quick to either get them back or raise an interesting point about their social life," Lindquist said.

For these two seniors, this weekend marks their final two games at McArthur Court. And while they both admit that it has been tough not playing as much they'd like, they enjoy just being a part of this team.

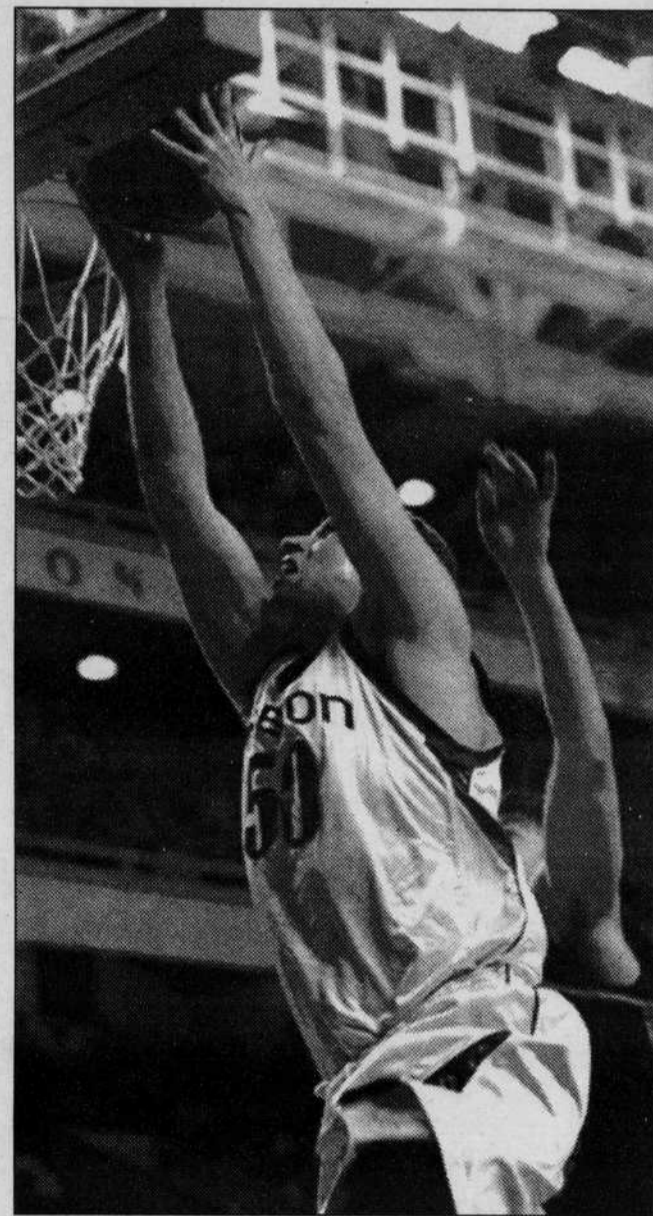
Plus, they're glad that they've had somebody to share the experience with — especially since both Amanda and Joy have played basketball in the past and understand the pressures of an athlete.

"My wife does a great job of supporting me," Michaelis said. "It's been wonderful. We have a pretty good conversation after each game. She tells me things I don't do right, but she does it lovingly."

"I can't imagine playing college ball without being married."

As for Lindquist, he could have easily been frustrated after seeing his minutes slowly decrease through the years. During his sophomore season, he played in 23 games and then saw

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Adam Amato Emerald

Senior Mark Michaelis has traveled a windy path to Eugene, but says that being part of a winning Ducks team has made it all worthwhile.

Oregon tries to not look ahead of lowly Washington State

■ The women's basketball team travels to Pullman for the beginning of the end of the Pac-10 regular season

By Hank Hager
Oregon Daily Emerald

Here's where it gets to be really interesting. Two Pacific-10 Conference games are left for the Oregon women's basketball team, including tonight's 7 p.m. match against Washington State (2-23 overall, 0-16 Pac-10) at the Palouse.

After taking on the Cougars, the Ducks

(14-11, 9-7) travel west to Seattle to face the conference's No. 3 squad, Washington (16-9, 11-5), on Saturday.

If the Ducks are able to at least split the series, they'll finish as they did last season, 10-8 in the Pac-10. If the Ducks sweep the weekend series, they will be 11-7 and possibly in the fourth seed for the inaugural conference tournament.

But if they lose both games, they could finish 9-9 and fall all the way to seventh.

"I think the Pac-10 is a great conference," Washington State head coach Jenny

Turn to Women's, page 12

■ The men's basketball team aims to stay undefeated at home against the last-place Cougars

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

Well, it's just Washington State; just the good old, 5-18, last-in-the-Pacific-10-Conference Cougars.

It's also the team that has lost six-straight games in Eugene — the team that's won one game in its last 17 tries. The team that had six players suspended last season when the

Cougars decided to take a late-night jaunt to Rock 'n Rodeo and played the Ducks with seven players.

But this is a team that still plays in the Pac-10, so it still has talent — so it could, conceivably, upset a Pac-10 team at any time. Washington State will try to upset Oregon at McArthur Court tonight, starting at 7 p.m.

"It's tough to play any team in the conference," Oregon forward Luke Jackson said. "Even though their record doesn't show it, they're still a tough game for us."

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