

Oregon wrestlers looking ahead to nationals

■ Finishing the conference tournament with three individual champions, Duck wrestlers are poised for the NCAA

By Chris Cabot
Oregon Daily Emerald

As early as Nov. 12, after dual meet wins over Pacific-10 Conference opponents Stanford and UC Davis, Oregon wrestling head coach Chuck Kearney was looking ahead to the postseason tournaments.

"We want to be in the position to win the Pac-10 Tournament," he said at the time. "We can do that. It's a matter of us making developments to get better."

"We want to be the team that shows up to the national tournament as the surprise team. Every year there is a team that kind of comes out of nowhere and has a tournament that everybody talks about, and we want this team to be that one. We want to show up and, for a lack of a better word, overachieve. And with the attitude that the guys are competing and training with, we are on pace to do that."

With a second-place overall finish at the Pac-10s on March 3 and three individual conference champions (Eugene Harris at 165 pounds, Tony Overstake at 157 and Shaun Williams at 125), the Ducks are on track to "overachieve" at the NCAA Tournament.

Along with the three titles, Oregon wrestlers earned second place from Brian Watson (141), two third-place finishes from Shane Webster (174) and Eric Webb (Hwt.), and a fourth-place finish by Casey Hunt (149). By finishing in the top-four, those wrestlers earned automatic invitations to the NCAA Tournament in Albany, N.Y.

The Ducks' Jason Harless (133) also earned an invitation to go to Albany by receiving one of the three wildcard bids given out to Pac-10 wrestlers.

The individual titles for Harris, Overstake

and Williams were the first for each wrestler. Kearney, who won a Pac-10 championship himself while competing for Oregon, said that winning the title can be one of many important steps in a wrestler's career.

"Winning the Pac-10 title is another milestone that those three guys had the opportunity to pass, and it is something that can never be taken away from them," he said. "In one of the premiere wrestling conferences in the nation, they are guys that won their weight class. That is something special."

A second season

With almost three weeks between the Pac-10 Tournament and nationals, the wrestling team is looking at these final few weeks as its own individual mini-season.

"It's a nice time to refocus to get ourselves ready, physically and mentally, for the tournament," Kearney said.

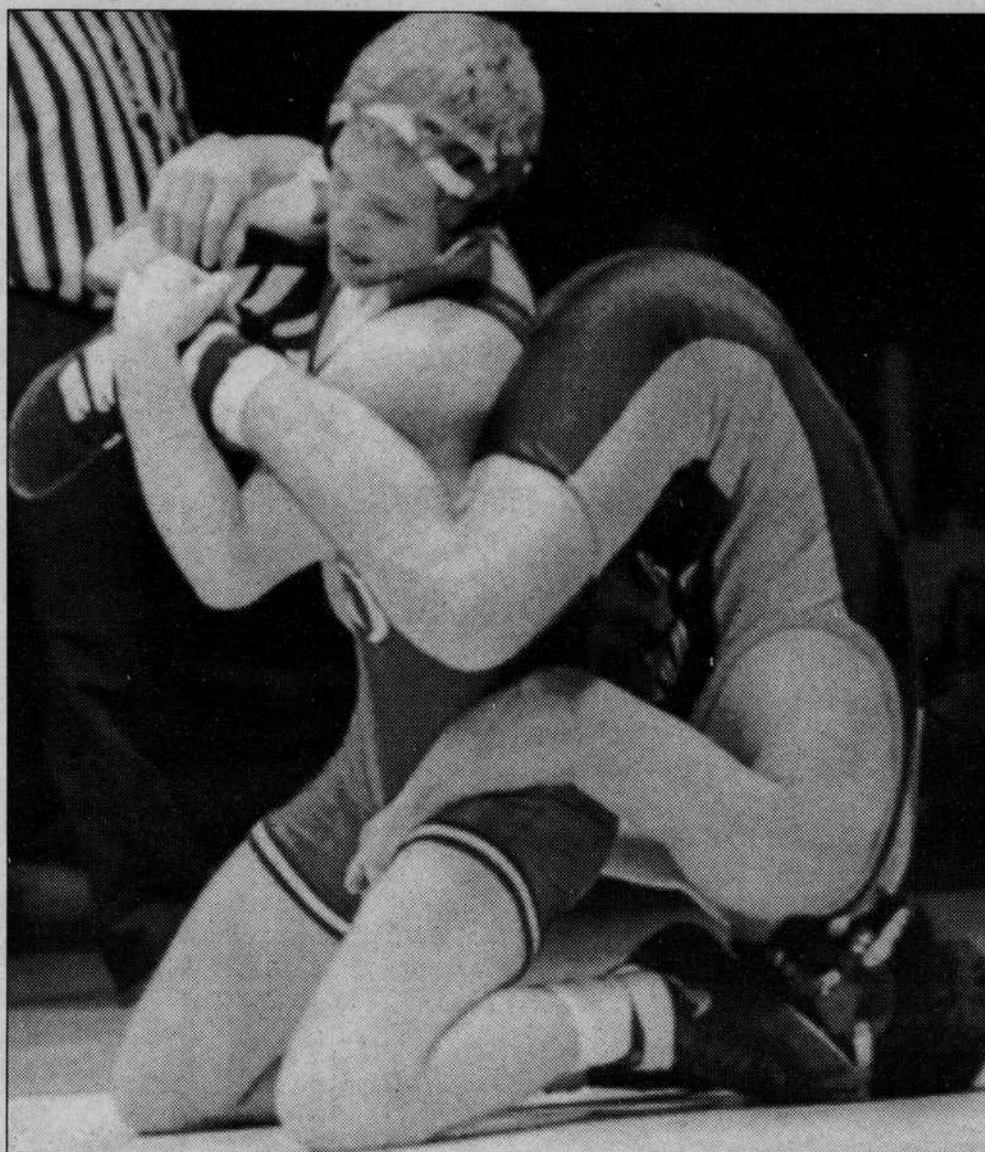
With only eight wrestlers competing in Albany, the coaching staff has kept the rest of the squad working hard almost every day. They participate in the same morning workouts, afternoon practices and weight sessions that the top eight do.

"We want them to go through the preparation process so that hopefully next year when they are qualified or in the starting lineups, they will have this experience under their belts," Kearney said.

Play hard, study hard

Finals begin next week, but the Ducks leave for Albany on Monday, and will spend the entire week there. With the tournament beginning on Thursday, the team will spend the first few days acclimating to the Eastern time zone, practicing and taking their exams. A representative from academic services will travel with the team to monitor the test-taking environment.

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Adam Amato Emerald

Oregon's Brian Watson (left) finished second at 141 pounds in the Pac-10 Tournament, and will be one of eight Ducks competing in the NCAA tournament in Albany, N.Y., starting March 21.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 13). Someone who's been bossing you around is in for a big surprise. You're not Mr. or Mrs. Pushover anymore. There are some things you won't put up with. This year, come right out and say what they are. You'll be stronger and more successful as a result.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 6 - You're not quite ready for the big time yet. You need more practice, a humble spirit, a sense of service. All this and more can be yours. If you need coaching, ask a Pisces.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - Today is an 8 - When one door closes, another opens, right? Your choice not to do one thing allows you time to do something that's going to be a heck of a lot more fun. Let friends talk you into it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 6 - Now it's your turn to offer encouragement. Don't argue with a person who has high expectations. Figure out how to meet the goal. If reality slows you down, toss it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) - Today is an 8 - Something you thought was one way turns out to be another. You're more likely to be relieved than dismayed, so keep asking questions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 6 - You don't like to think about not having enough, but it's good to be prepared. Recent events may have brought that to your attention. By acting wisely now, you could do well later. Don't wait.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - You

may have to give up something important in order to get something better. You may also have to follow directions without understanding why.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 6 - A creative project you've been thinking about finally starts taking shape. It's not easy, but you can do it. You can see it clearly in your head. Keep practicing so that others can see it, too.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 10 - Is it all that planning that's led to your success, or is it sheer intention? Or maybe luck? A shortage of money won't stop you. You're inspired! Act now!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 5 - You get extra points for compassion and sensitivity. You don't really need any training in this, though somebody may suggest some. Just listen and don't interrupt.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is an 8 - You could spend all day doing research. You're practicing a new way of seeing, doing, or both. Something that was impossible is starting to look easy. Keep at it!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 6 - There's plenty of work, and you're finding ways to do it efficiently. Good thing, because home improvements are costly. Save a few coins for some fun this weekend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is an 8 - This is the day you administer the final blow. It could be a word or gesture that shows you're unmistakably in control. Enjoy the moment, but don't be blinded by pride. That would ruin the effect.

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SPAN 103	4:00 MW	MATH 112	4:00 UH
SPAN 103	4:00 UH	MATH 112	3:00 MW
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