



Webster leads wrestlers

Oregon ends a week of East Coast competition with an eighth-place finish Saturday

Wrestling

Mindi Rice

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Sophomore Shane Webster won the 174 weight class in Saturday's Mat-Town USA Invitational in Lock Haven, Pa., while Oregon finished eighth overall.

On Webster's path to his firstplace finish, he beat Nebraska's Travis Pascoe, the No. 2-ranked wrestler in the nation for the 174 class, and Purdue's Ryan Lange, the No. 6-ranked wrestler.

In the first-place bout against Lange, Webster won a close decision 9-7. Webster was one of the wrestlers up for Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament, but a Penn State wrestler won the honor after knocking off four ranked opponents.

"(Webster) put in the kind of performance that would warrant him getting it," head coach Chuck Kearney said.

In the first meet of the season, Webster had to pull out after two matches due to injury. Last year, as a true freshman, Webster finished third in the Pacific-10 Conference and earned a trip to the NCAA Championships. He had a 17-11 record overall.

Redshirt senior Tony Overstake, who won the Pac-10 championship in the 157 weight class last year, finished sixth. Overstake has made the move to the 149 weight class, and Saturday was his first meet competing at 149. Overstake has qualified for the NCAA Championships the past two years.

Sophomore Martin Mitchell earned a fourth-place finish in the 125 weight class. Mitchell competed in the 133 weight class last season, and takes over the starting spot in 125 from NGAA-qualifier Shaun Williams.

Redshirt sophomore Luke Larwin finished seventh in the 165 weight class. After competing in the NCAA tournament his freshman year, Larwin spent last season as a redshirt while training with Eugene Harris, last year's Pac-10 Champion in the 165 weight class.

The Ducks, who had 14 wrestlers participate, placed eighth in the meet, with 64 points.

Purdue had three individual winners on its way to the team title at the Mat-Town tournament. Nebraska finished second and Penn State, last year's champion, finished third.

Two Penn State wrestlers and one Purdue wrestler earned their second-straight Mat-Town title for their weight class

weight class.

The three top team finishers were ranked in the top-25 nationally before Saturday's tournament.

"We wanted to get good, tough competition," Kearney said. "We wanted to put the team in an adverse situation to see how the team would adjust to the adversity."

Senior heavyweight Eric Webb was with the team, but did not compete after an injury in last week's Body Bar Invitational. Webb was an NCAA entrant last year, but has had problems during the past two seasons with injuries.

After two tournaments and a week on the East Coast, the wrestlers return home for finals and two weeks of training.

"We just need to fix the little things," Kearney said. "We need to get home and start preparing for Oregon State."

Oregon opens the dual-meet season at home against Oregon State and Nebraska at McArthur Court on Dec. 13 and 14.

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Bowls

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forced to go to the Holiday Bowl to face Kansas State again.

Oregon is far away from the BCS controversy this season, but it will still affect the Ducks' post-season destination.

Oregon's possible opponents in either the Silicon Valley or Seattle bowls are already set. Fresno State accepted a bid for the Silicon Valley Bowl and Georgia Tech seems to have a berth in the Seattle Bowl locked up. Fresno State and Oregon already clashed this season, with the Ducks prevailing 28-24 on Sept. 7. Georgia Tech played in the Seattle Bowl last season, against Stanford.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.

Return of the sports poll

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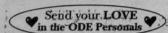
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