

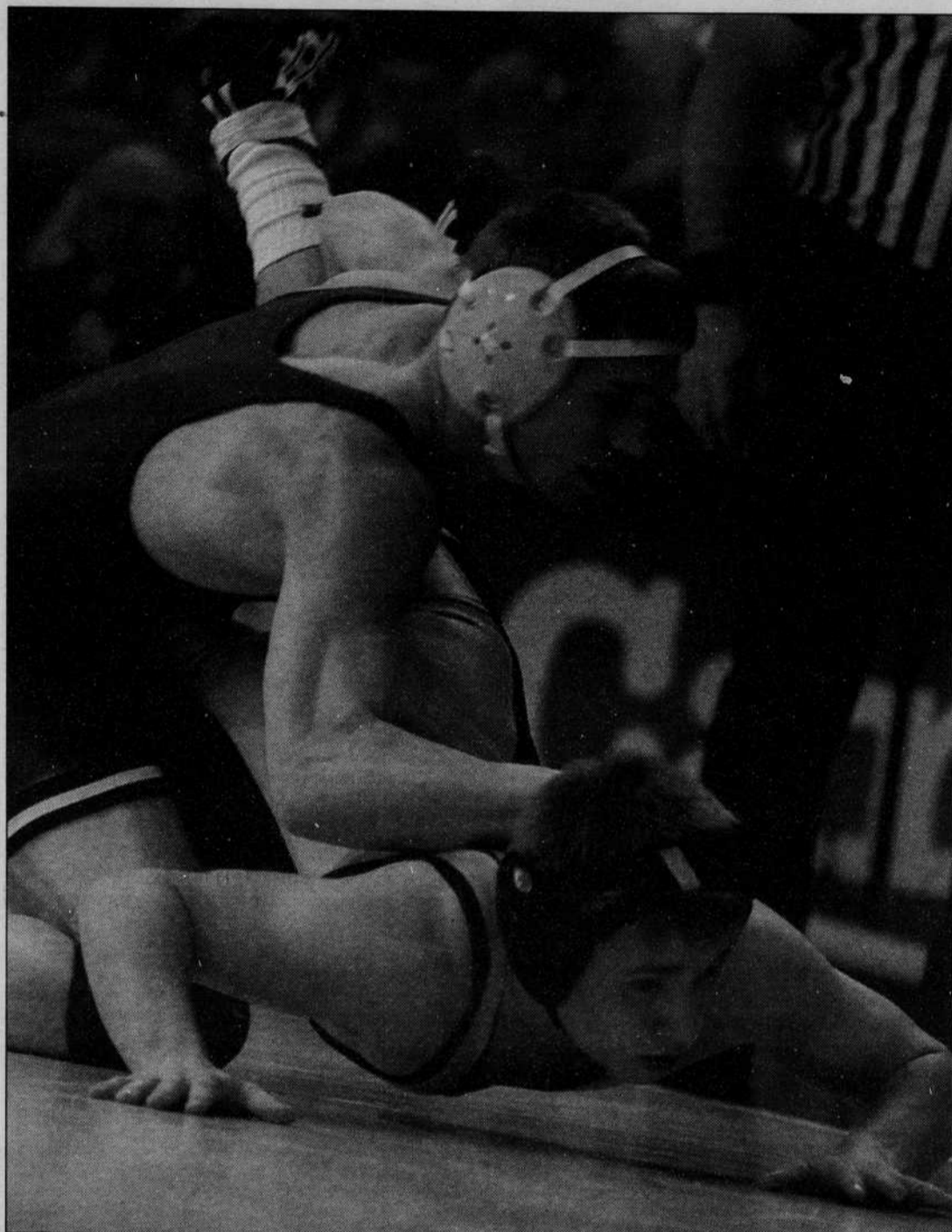
SPORTS

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Best bet
NCAA basketball:
Georgetown at Duke
4 p.m., ESPN

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Vacation? Wrestling faces top competition



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Sophomore Martin Mitchell (top) provided Oregon with a spark when they were down to Oregon State in the Ducks' first match of the break. Mitchell pinned his opponent and Oregon went on to win the match.

Oregon wrestled a difficult winter break schedule, coming back to beat in-state rival Oregon State, and losing to Nebraska

Wrestling

Mindi Rice
Freelance Sports Reporter

After earning a hard-fought victory over Oregon State to begin their winter break competition, the wrestlers on the Oregon squad thought they were on the road to looking good this season.

Then came two losses to national powerhouse teams where the Ducks were dominated. Those losses were sandwiched around a sixth-place finish behind two conference foes at a national tournament.

Now Oregon needs to focus and get back on track to where it was during the Civil War meet.

Against Oregon State on Dec. 13, the Ducks went down 6-0 before sophomore Shane Webster took out his Beaver opponent 8-4 in the 174 weight class. Oregon State got its momentum back, however, and won the next three matchups.

Down 15-3, sophomore Martin Mitchell and the 125 weight class came next.

"I went in with the mindset that one of us was going to have to score bonus points," Mitchell said.

Earning the pin at 2:28 into the first period, Mitchell gave the Ducks six points and their much-needed pick-me-up.

"That was huge," senior Tony Overstake said. "His pin turned the tides."

Redshirt junior Jason Harless followed Mitchell with a dominating performance in the 133 class, winning 10-6. Senior Casey Hunt started his match strong and held on to win 6-3 in the 141 class, tying the score at 15.

In the battle of the Tonys, Overstake and Oregon State freshman Tony Hook had the deciding match of the night. After a quick takedown by Hook, Overstake controlled the rest of the matchup, winning 9-3 and earning Oregon the 18-15 win.

"We're getting started in the right di-

rection," Mitchell said after the Civil War match.

The next night, Oregon came out flat against No. 12 Nebraska.

Redshirt junior Jake Lear won the 197 match, scoring Oregon's only points in the match. Nebraska took three major decisions and won the rest of the matches on decisions, overpowering the Ducks 30-3.

Lear had three takedowns and one escape, winning his match 7-1.

"It's important to go out and win every time, but it's more important that your team scores points," Lear said.

Scoring points was something the Ducks were able to do at the Dec. 19 Reno Tournament of Champions, where Oregon finished sixth in the 22-team pool.

Senior leaders Hunt, at 141, and Overstake, at 149, both took second in their weight classes. Both wrestlers lost to top-10 ranked wrestlers from future opponents in the championship matchup.

Webster lost to the ninth-ranked wrestler in his weight class, but came back to win the third-place match. Redshirt sophomore Luke Larwin finished fourth in the 165 weight class, bouncing back from losses in both dual meets.

Among the eight Pacific-10 Conference teams competing, Oregon finished third. Arizona State took third place overall, leading the way for the Pac-10. Defending Pac-10 champion Boise State took fourth overall, finishing just behind Arizona State.

Friday the Ducks take on four teams in the Redmond-hosted Oregon Classic. Oregon will compete against No. 12 Central Michigan, No. 17 Wisconsin, Pacific and Pac-10 foe Cal State Fullerton.

De-ranked Ducks

Overstake, who won his last matchup at the Jan. 4 meet against Michigan, dropped from the 149 class individual rankings in the most recent poll. Senior Eric Webb also was dropped from the rankings, leaving Webster as the only individually-ranked wrestler on the Oregon squad. Webster moved up to No. 8 at 174

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Duck basketball flies high and low over winter break

WOMEN — After suffering adversity over break, Oregon is looking for a way to win

Women's basketball

Jesse Thomas
Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's basketball team went through a rollercoaster ride over winter break, everything from losing players, to injuries, to the start of Pacific-10 Conference play.

The Ducks managed a 2-3 record and went 1-1 against the Southern California schools to begin conference play.

And amidst the three-week turmoil, Oregon suffered three injuries and lost one player because of medical circumstances. The Ducks fought through the adversity and saw their share of ups and downs.

Santa Clara 88, Oregon 79

Santa Clara came to town a few days after the end of finals, Dec. 15, and turned the game into a shootout, one that the Ducks lost.

It was raining from downtown for most of the game as Oregon hit a school-record 13 of 29 shots from three-point land. The

Broncos would match the Ducks' intensity and shoot 12-of-21 from beyond the arc.

Oregon led most of the first half and into the second, but the Ducks would only hit three of their 13 3-point attempts, and it wouldn't be enough.

Junior forward Cathrine Kraayeveld led the team with a career-high 33 points, 24 of which came in the first half. Sophomore Andrea Bills added nine points and nine rebounds.

"We just lost all momentum, and they came back to win," Bills said. "It was a disappointing loss, but we try to play through it and go on."

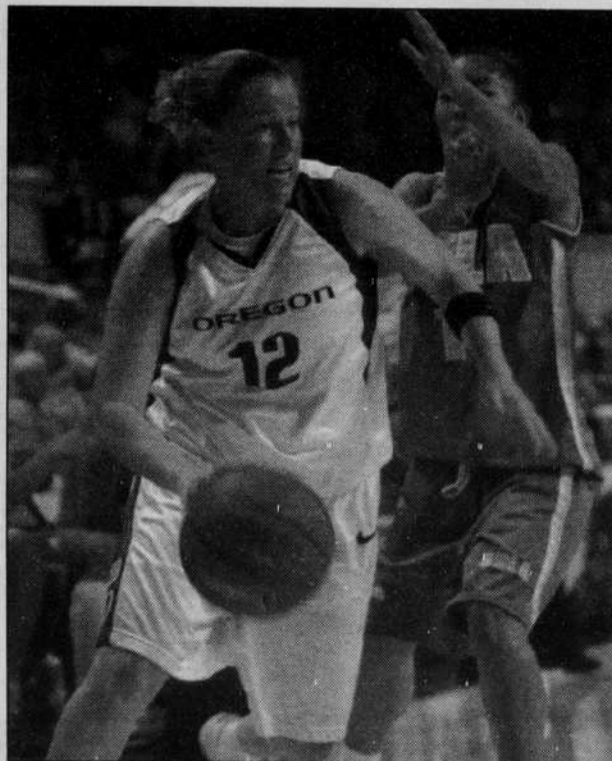
Oregon 65, Montana 60

Oregon would not be denied again as the Ducks traveled to Missoula, Mont., on Dec. 19 to defeat the Griz for their first road victory of the season.

Behind Kraayeveld, who scored 18 points and notched a career-high 22 rebounds, and junior Kayla Steen, who added a career-best 14 points, the Ducks ousted Montana in Dahlberg Arena.

The Ducks trailed 58-57 late in the game, but after back-to-back layins for Oregon and two blocked shots by Kraayeveld, the Ducks were able to secure the win to move to 4-4.

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Danielle Hickey Emerald

Senior guard Alissa Edwards (12) and the Ducks emerged from the break with a 2-5 record over a holiday marred with injury.

MEN — Oregon has one major hiccup in New York during an otherwise-successful break

Men's basketball

Peter Hockaday
Sports Editor

Over winter break, the Oregon men's basketball team broke open a few games, broke down once, broke away from the rest of the Pacific-10 Conference, and, finally, broke a home winning streak.

All while the students of the University were on break.

So, in deference to those students, we here at the Emerald will break it down.

Winter break, that is.

Oregon 105, Pepperdine 90

The Ducks came off their big win in the Papé Jam over Kansas with another big win, this one proving Oregon could beat an upstart team on the road; in this case, West Coast Conference troublemaker Pepperdine, in Malibu, on Dec. 15.

Ernie Kent's 100th career victory came in true Oregon style, with the Ducks run-

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