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# SPORTS

**Best bet**  
NCAA basketball:  
Pittsburgh at West Virginia  
4 p.m., ESPN2

Tuesday, January 14, 2003

## Webb's wrestling career ended by injury

The Oregon star finishes his Duck career with a 69-31 overall record

### Wrestling

**Mindi Rice**

Freelance Sports Reporter

After suffering his fourth concussion in less than two years, senior heavyweight wrestler Eric Webb will no longer compete for the Oregon wrestling squad to avoid the risk of further injury.

"The medical personnel have decided that it is not in his best interest to

continue competition," head coach Chuck Kearney said. "It's no longer safe for him to compete."

Webb, a native of Eugene and graduate of Willamette High School, had a successful Oregon career, ending with an overall record of 69-31. Webb red-shirted his first season, and went 23-15 overall and 15-9 in dual meet competition during the 1999-2000 season, his first year of competition. He had 12 pins, one fall and seven major decisions going into his sophomore season.

Webb's strongest year, statistically, was his sophomore campaign. On Dec. 29, 2000, at the Midlands Tournament,

Webb defeated then-No. 3 John Lockhart, 5-3. He ended the season 13-2 in dual meets and 24-4 overall, including seven pins.

Webb sustained a concussion while warming up for the Pacific-10 Conference Championships, and was unable to finish the season on the mat. He ended the season ranked No. 4 at heavyweight nationally, the highest ranking of any Oregon wrestler that season. Lockhart was the eventual NCAA Champion.

During his junior season, Webb battled foot injuries but still finished the season 20-11 overall and had a third-

place finish in the Pac-10.

Webb began the current season, his final year, ranked by multiple publications as one of the top 10 heavyweights in the country. Many expected Webb to make a run at the national title.

He started strong in the Nov. 23 Body Bar Invitational hosted by Cornell, winning his first two matches. He suffered his eventual season-ending concussion early in the third match, and has not competed for the Ducks since.

"He is a friend and a leader to the young men in this program," Kearney

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Webb

## Making their point

The Oregon club fencing team explains its often-misunderstood sport to prospective fencers

**Jon Roetman**

Freelance Sports Reporter

Let's get a few particulars out of the way.

Do you like fighting? Do you feel like stabbing someone with a sharp object? Do you want to swing in from a chandelier to kill the bad guy? If so, fencing is not for you.

These are some of the most common misconceptions that people have about fencing, Oregon club fencing head coach Paul Csonka said.

Csonka, who has been fencing for 15 years and coaching the Oregon fencing team for five, said that a fair amount of people come out for the fencing team, but many are turned away when they find out what fencing is really about.

"Fencing isn't directly applicable to dueling," Csonka said. "This first turns a lot of people off."

Fencing is a game of strategy, defensive tactics and point scoring, rather than slashing and bleeding.

Three weapons are used in the sport, two of which are used by the club. The two offered by club fencing are the foil, a flexible 35-inch rectangular blade, and the epee, (EPP-pay) which is similar in length, yet heavier with a larger hand guard and a much stiffer blade. The third weapon, which is not used by the club, is the sabre, which is the modern version of the cavalry sword.

Each weapon has a different space on the opponent's body where a point can be scored with a touch. A point can be scored with the foil if contact is made with the opponent's torso. The epee's contact zone is the entire body, while the sabre's zone is from the waist

### Club Sports Tuesday

up. A bout in preliminary pool play is over when a fencer reaches five points, while a bout in direct elimination play is over when a fencer reaches 15 points.

The club has 11 consistent members, Csonka said. Half of those come with little experience.

"Fifty percent (of fencing members) have had one or two fencing classes, or nothing at all," Csonka said.

Those who rely on club funding for competition usually compete in two or three tournaments a year. Those who rely on their own funding usually compete in six or seven. The team practices twice a week. It costs nothing to practice with the team.

Freshman Robert Teel, who has been fencing for four years, said fencing involves more thought than fighting.

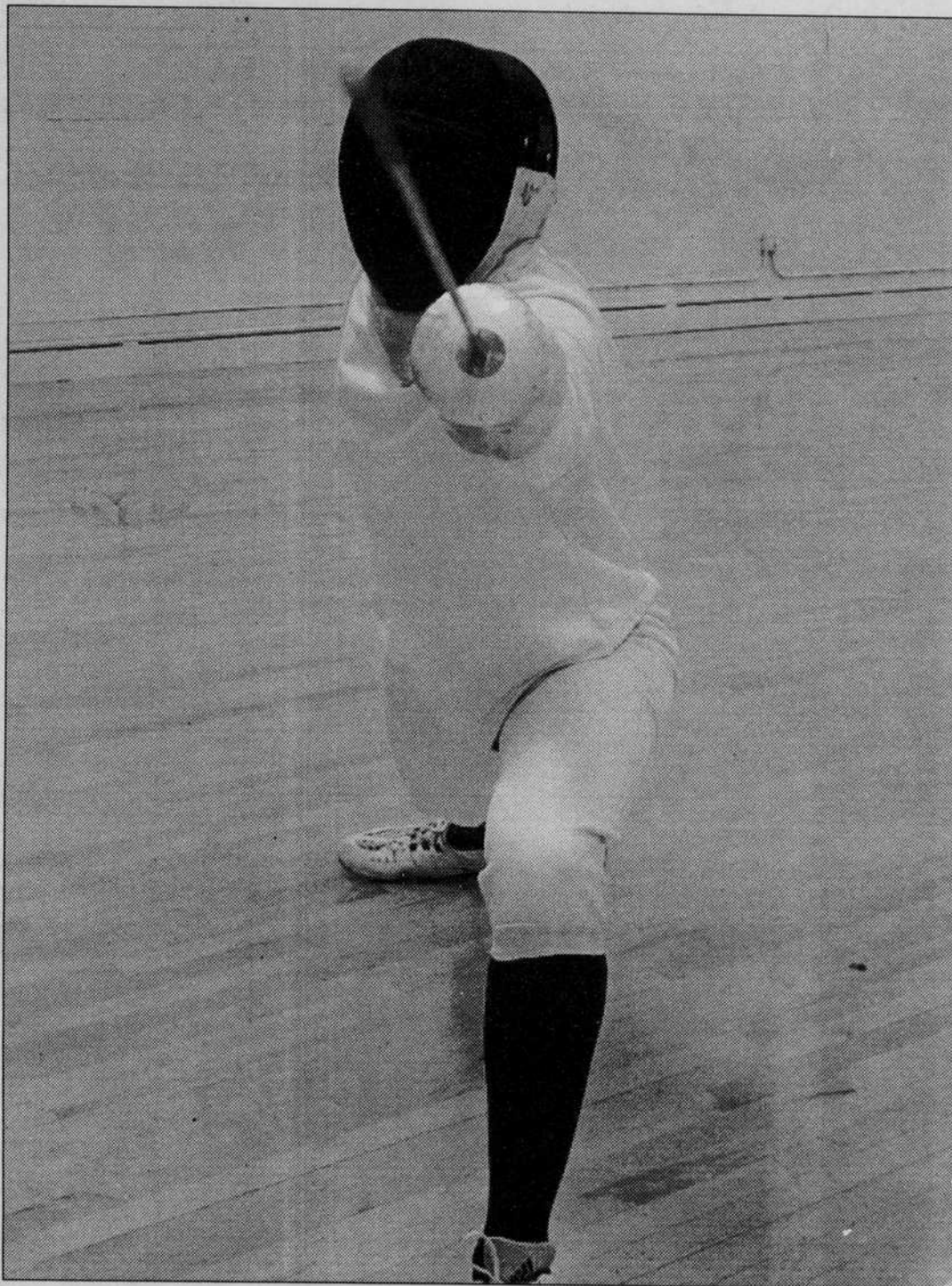
"The big misconception is that there's a lot of slashing," Teel said. "It's a lot of strategic defense."

Teel placed second individually at the Morgan Stanley Open in Portland and was on a team that placed first at the Eugene Fencer's Club tournament in December.

Assistant coach Adam Lake, 23, was also on the team that placed first in the Eugene tournament and tied for third individually at the Portland tournament. Lake has been fencing for almost nine years, including four at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wis.

Csonka was the gold medal winner for the Foil Open event at the Oregon

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Danielle Hickey Emerald

Jason Washburn sticks it to opponents as student coordinator for the Oregon fencing team, which competes regularly.

## Oregon tennis struggles in Hawaii tournament

The Ducks win one singles and three doubles matches in the Kona Invitational

### Men's tennis

**Ryan Heath**

Freelance Sports Writer

For some, Hawaii is a tropical island paradise. For the No. 73 Oregon men's tennis team, it was a difficult place to start the spring season.

The Ducks struggled against two teams in the top 15 at the Kona Invitational in Waikoloa, Hawaii over the weekend. Saturday, the Ducks were without No. 64 Manuel Kost, out with a strained muscle, against No. 2 Illinois. In singles play, Illinois won all six matches and the Ducks took two of three in doubles.

Ducks Sven Swinnen and Oded Teig defeated No. 2 Amer Delic and Michael Calkins, 8-6. Jason Menke

and Arron Spencer also teamed up to beat Illinois' Ryler DeHeart and Chris Martin. Thomas Bieri and Junaid Hossain stayed close against No. 35 Brian Wilson and Phil Stolt, but fell 8-6.

"Doubles was definitely a good showing," head coach Chris Russell said. "Oded and Sven played very well. Some of the other guys need to find a little more consistency."

Sunday, with Kost sitting for the second day in a row and pro-

nounced doubtful for Monday, the Ducks managed just two victories with one in singles and one in doubles. Hossain scored the singles win, beating Illinois' Alex Hobson, 6-3, 6-1, and Menke/Spencer handled Texas A&M's Khaled El Dorry and Cameron Fenner, 8-2. The top five players for the No. 13 Aggies were able to win all five singles matches and take two of the three doubles contests.

"Oded Teig has been very com-

petitive at the No. 1 singles spot, so that's been a real positive for us," assistant coach Ross Duncan said. "But the highlight was definitely the doubles play of Jason Menke and Arron Spencer."

The Ducks closed out the Kona Invitational with matches against No. 23 Wake Forest on Monday evening and have their first home dual meet Jan. 24.

Ryan Heath is a freelance writer for the Emerald.