

# Wrestling squad leads Pac-10 standings

Oregon is a strong force in the Pac-10 after last season's 2nd-place conference finish

## Wrestling

**Mindi Rice**  
Freelance Sports Reporter

A perfect 4-0 record in the Pacific-10 Conference puts Oregon as one of two teams to go undefeated in Pac-10 play this season.

The Ducks have wins against Oregon State, Portland State, Stanford and California-Davis for their undefeated conference record.

Leading Oregon along its way are four Ducks — two sophomores and two seniors — who, between three national polls, appear in the top 20 rankings for their respective weight classes.

The top-ranked Duck, sophomore Shane Webster, is ranked in all three polls. The Wrestling

Mall puts Webster at No. 13, while both W.I.N. Magazine and Amateur Wrestling News have Webster sitting at No. 11.

Sophomore Martin Mitchell is ranked No. 20, by W.I.N. Magazine, in the 125 weight class.

At 141, senior Casey Hunt is ranked No. 19 by The Wrestling Mall.

Fellow senior Tony Overstake, at 149, is ranked No. 17 by W.I.N. Magazine and Amateur Wrestling News.

### Weekend warriors ranked

Boise State, Oregon's Pac-10 opponent Friday night, comes to McArthur Court ranked No. 17 by W.I.N. Magazine and No. 22 by The Wrestling Mall.

Five Broncos are ranked by The Wrestling Mall in the top 20 at their weight class. Four seniors — Ben VomBaur at 125, Gabe Vigil at 141, Collin Robertson at 149 and Boe Rushton at heavyweight — are in the top 10. VomBaur is No. 3 and Robertson is No. 5, while

both Vigil and Rushton sit at No. 7. Junior Tony D'Amico, at 184, is ranked No. 18.

Arizona State visits Eugene on Sunday as the highest-ranked Pac-10 team. Ranked No. 7 by W.I.N. Magazine and No. 10 by The Wrestling Mall, the Sun Devils are 9-5 in dual meet competition, with two wins coming against conference opponents.

Redshirt senior Erik Larkin leads the way for the Sun Devils, ranked No. 1 by The Wrestling Mall at the 149 weight class. Two more redshirt seniors join Larkin in the top five, with heavyweight Kellan Fluckiger at No. 4 and Dana Holland at No. 5.

Two Sun Devils sit at No. 8 in their weight class, redshirt junior Nick Frost at 165 and redshirt senior Curtis Owen at 174. Another redshirt senior, Mike Simpson, is ranked No. 9 at the 133 weight class.

### What's the score?

For an idea of how to score a wrestling match, it must first be

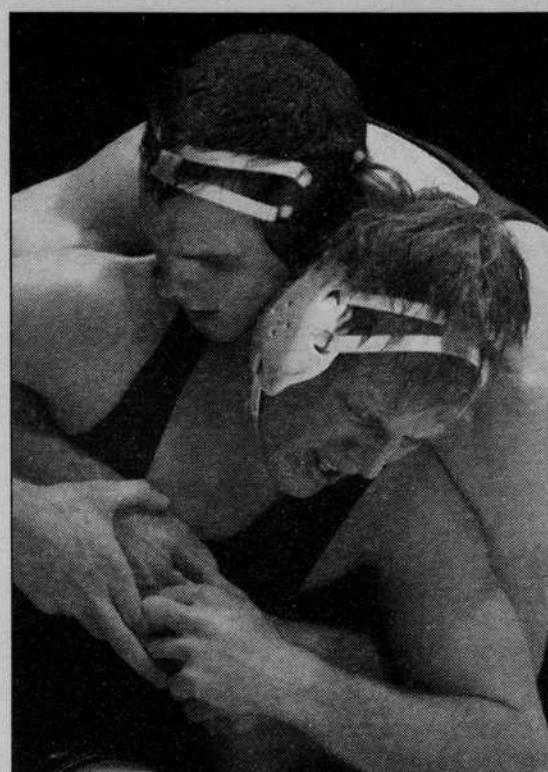
understood that there are two different aspects to score.

The different weight class matches have a score, and from those scores, a meet score — and winning team — can be translated.

Each of the 10 weight classes has a match between two wrestlers. The wrestlers score points by earning takedowns on their opponents and escaping when they suffer a takedown, among other things.

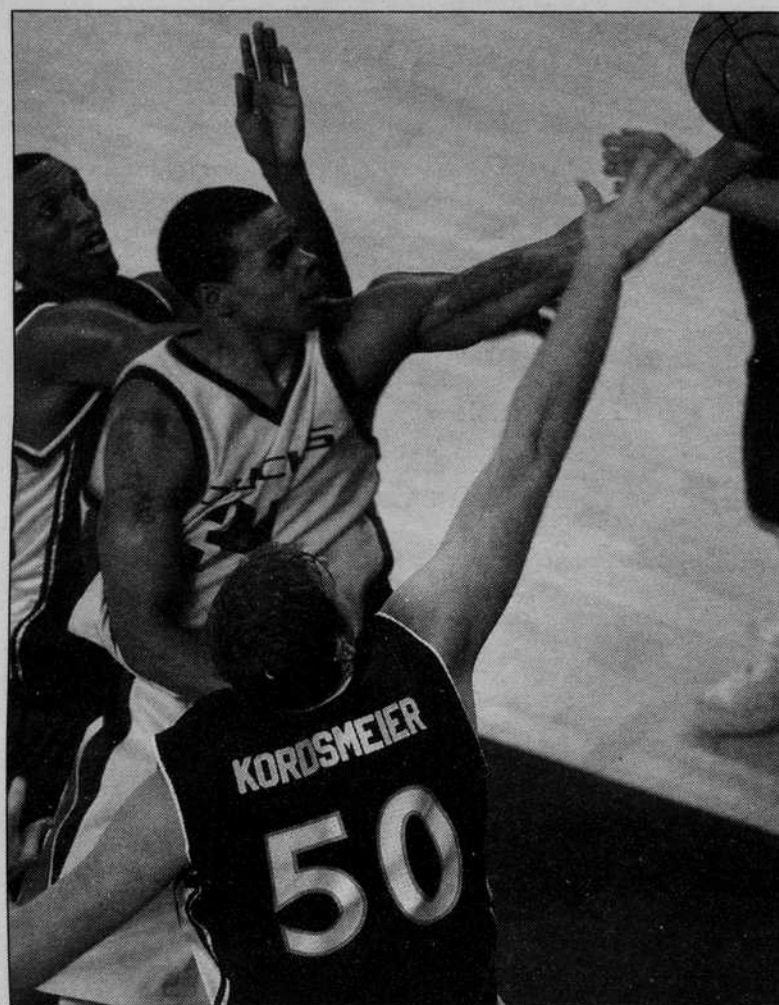
At the end of each weight class, a score is added to the team total. If a wrestler earns a victory by defeating his opponent in points, it is a three-point decision. If the wrestler outscores his opponent by 8-14 points, he earns a four-point major decision for his team.

If a wrestler pins his opponent, he earns six points for his team. If the opposing team forfeits a match, the wrestler also earns six points.



Adam Amato Emerald

Sophomore Shane Webster (top) is the top-ranked Duck in his weight class, ranked as high as No. 11 at 174.



Adam Amato Emerald

Andre Joseph struggled at first starting for Luke Jackson, but settled in Saturday.

## Basketball

continued from page 5

tendon is so tight that I can barely extend my finger and I can't really make an open palm yet."

When he does play — realistically, next week against Stanford and Cal — Jackson will likely have his three outside fingers taped together or wear a glove.

In the meantime, Andre Joseph is replacing Jackson in the starting lineup.

"I feel like I gotta step up," Joseph said. "Right now, I'm confident and just excited to get down there and play."

### Is Lavin leaving?

Despite leading the Bruins to five Sweet 16 appearances in six years, Steve Lavin's days at UCLA appear to be winding down. Fans boo the Bruins at home and boosters are already dropping names for a possible new head coach.

The Bruins (4-11, 2-5) are having one of the worst seasons in school history, and Lavin is taking the brunt of the blame.

"He's had so much success down there — every coach in the country would love to have his record of success; I know I would," Kent said. "My heart goes out to him because he's in a really tough situation right now."

Oregon point guard Luke Ridnour, recruited by Lavin in high school, said he has a lot of respect for the coach.

"UCLA's a tough job — there's a lot of pressure," Ridnour said. "I feel for what he's going through."

### More Rid records

Already in the top-five for career three-pointers and steals, Ridnour is one assist shy of becoming the third Duck to record 400 career assists. His 399 assists rank him behind Kenya Wilkins, the school's all-time assist leader with 614, and Ron Lee (572).

With 29 assists in the last three games, Ridnour leads the Pac-10 with 6.5 assists per game and is second in scoring at 19.4 points.

### Bracket busting

It's still a bit early to start making plans for the NCAA Tournament, but isn't it fun just thinking about the madness of March?

In this week's version of Bracketology, ESPN.com's Joe Lunardi has Oregon projected as the No. 6 seed in the South, with a first-round matchup against 11th-seed Auburn (15-4) in Birmingham, Ala.

But Lunardi isn't ready to jump on the Oregon bandwagon. "Not going to take the Ducks seriously until they win some league games on the road," he wrote. "This weekend provides the perfect opportunity."

Contact the senior sports reporter at adamjude@dailymerald.com.

## Volleyball

continued from page 5

1-17 in Pacific-10 Conference play. Two will be juniors — Lauren Westendorf and Katie O'Neil — while there are no seniors slated to be on the roster.

Ferreira has three recruits already making their way to Eugene next season, and was confident his returning players would be able to overcome the decimation of the roster.

"I don't think it's easy," he said. "The athletic arena forges unique relationships beyond the game. They all have great feelings and emotions about each other, and, with that being said, they've handled themselves in a real mature manner in doing everything they can to progress forward. But it's not easy for them."

Oregon's recruiting process is far from done, as Ferreira looks to fill the newly created void on the roster. The Ducks supported a 14-player roster last season. To get to that point now, Ferreira would need to sign five more players.

Contact the sports reporter at hankhager@dailymerald.com.

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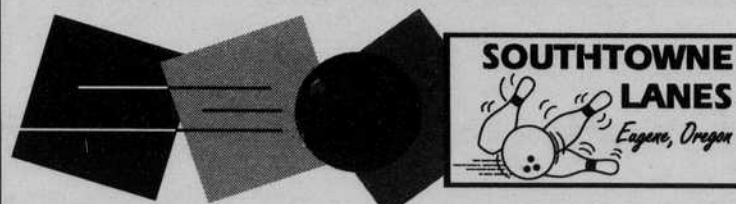
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