

Ducks wrestle top Pac-10 competition

Oregon takes on Boise State and Arizona State this weekend in the Ducks' last home matches of the season

Wrestling

Mindi Rice
Freelance Sports Reporter

With the Broncos and Sun Devils coming to Eugene this weekend, Oregon battles its toughest conference competition on its home mat.

The Ducks are 4-0 in Pacific-10 Conference dual meets, and 1-6 against non-conference opponents, including losses at No. 7 Oklahoma and No. 1 Oklahoma State last weekend.

"We want to go out and wrestle at a high level of intensity," head coach Chuck Kearney said. "We want to wrestle at the same level of intensity we did last weekend."

"We're doing some things a lot better. It's a matter of doing the little things to win matches."

The little things will be important today at 7 p.m. as the Ducks take on Boise State, ranked No. 12 by Inter-mat. The Broncos feature four seniors ranked in the top 10 of their weight class by The Wrestling Mall.

Ben VomBaur, at 125, leads the Broncos in the rankings. VomBaur is ranked No. 3 in his weight class. Collin Robertson is ranked No. 5 at the 149 weight class.

Gabe Vigil, at 141, and heavy-weight Boe Rushton both sit at No. 7 in their weight classes. Junior Tony

D'Amico is ranked No. 18 at 184.

"Boise State is a solid team that wrestles hard," Kearney said.

Last season, Oregon lost at Boise State in overtime of the final match of the night. The Broncos took first place at the Pac-10 Championships one month later, finishing ahead of Oregon by only 7.5 points.

"Our guys are going to be fired up for it," Kearney said.

The Ducks will look for a good showing Friday night to propel them

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into Sunday, when they face the highest-ranked Pac-10 team. Arizona State, ranked No. 6 by Inter-mat, will battle the Ducks at 2 p.m. at McArthur Court.

Sun Devil redshirt senior Erik Larkin is ranked No. 1 by The Wrestling Mall at 149. Fellow red-shirt seniors Kellan Fluckiger and Dana Holland sit in the top five. Fluckiger, at heavyweight, is No. 4. Holland is No. 5 at 141.

Two more redshirt seniors are ranked in the top 10 — Curtis Owen at 174 is No. 8, and Mike Simpson at 133 is No. 9. Redshirt junior Nick

Frost is ranked No. 8 at 165.

Oregon will be wrestling the same 10 wrestlers that have competed for the Ducks the past two weekends.

Sophomore Shane Webster leads the Ducks in the polls, ranked No. 7 by Inter-mat at the 174 weight class. Webster is 19-3 on the season, including 9-2 in dual meets.

Tony Overstake will have the most difficult opponents to face at 149. Overstake sits at No. 17 in two polls and is not ranked in the other two.

Robertson, from Boise State, is ranked in the top 10 by four polls, while Sun Devil opponent Larkin is ranked No. 1 by the same four polls.

Freshman Tony Rolen has won three of his last four matches. Rolen earned his first pin of the season against Oklahoma's Derrick Brown at the 3:51 mark of the matchup.

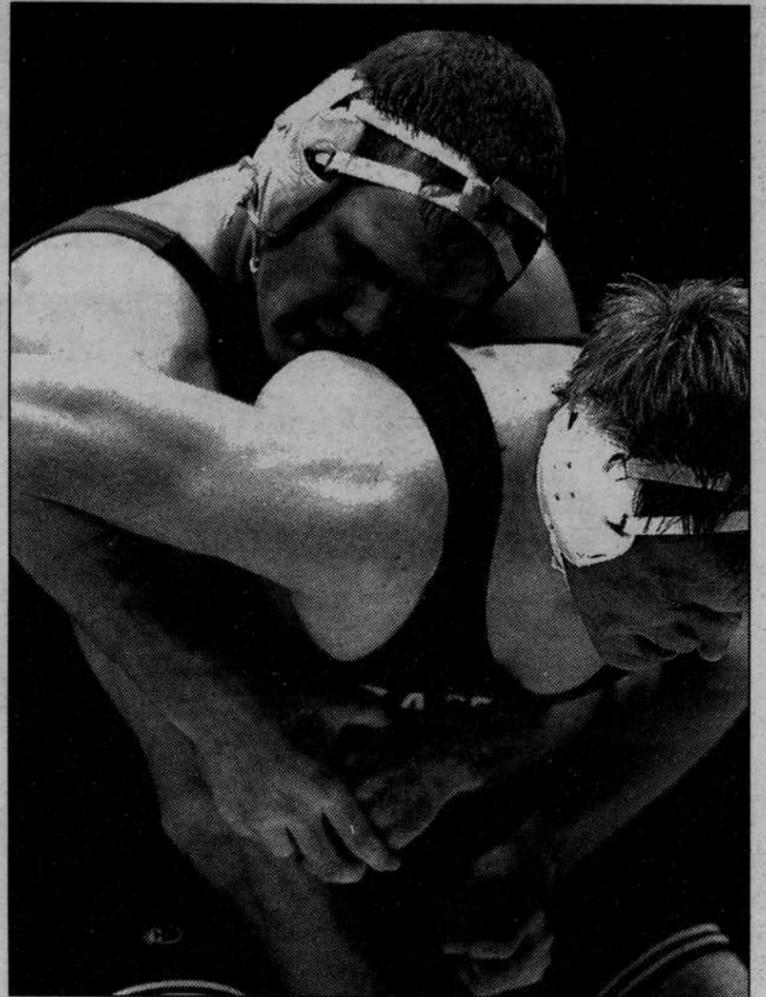
Martin Mitchell entered the rankings this week. Mitchell, a sophomore, is ranked No. 20 by W.I.N. Magazine at the 125 weight class.

Senior Casey Hunt also was ranked this week, sitting at No. 19 in The Wrestling Mall's rankings.

Oregon was placed in the "teams to watch" section of Inter-mat's rankings this week. The Ducks have the opportunity to jump into the top 25 if they compete well against the only two ranked Pac-10 teams this weekend.

"If we want to compete for conference championships, these are the kinds of teams we're going to have to beat," Kearney said.

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald.



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Shane Webster (top) and the Ducks face a tough pair of Pac-10 home matches.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 31). The more old issues you resolve this year, the more confident you'll become. That's always the case, but it's really noticeable now. So don't avoid the uncomfortable situations. Deal with them, and accelerate your ascent to success.
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 9. If there's something you don't want to talk about, don't. If it won't further the action, keep it to yourself. There's no time, anyway. Things are moving too fast.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Today is a 5. It's not a great idea to try to argue the minority opinion now. You could be right, but that won't get you far with a person whose mind has slammed shut. Save your breath.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21) Today is a 7. You're not quite done with the homework yet, even if you think you are. Try one or two other tricks to cut costs even more. That'll impress your friends and loved ones.
CANCER (June 22-July 22) Today is a 6. Let a spokesperson explain your plans. That might be more effective. Besides, it's good for others to know you're not out there all by yourself.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is an 8. An expert can help alleviate the pressure you're under at work. Don't feel bad. There's no way you'd ever have thought of this all by yourself.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is a 6. A few choice words are necessary to have the

job go the way you want. Don't be afraid to say those words when the moment is right. You'll know when.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today is an 8. The day gets more fun as you go along, and not just because it's a Friday. The weekend will be awesome for romance, starting tonight. Set it up.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is a 5. When you focus your attention, you're awesome. That's liable to happen this weekend. Your home and/or something in it will never be the same. Unleash your creative powers.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is an 8. Put every penny you can into the best educational materials. You should also find a way to write them off, since you'll eventually use them to benefit others.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is a 6. You may have to holler to be heard above the din. Don't be shy. Your income will go up along with your volume. Let people know what you've got.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Today is an 8. Your planning phase should be nearing completion. New, brilliant ideas come tonight and over the weekend. A gathering of like-minded souls could be the perfect environment, and also a lot of fun.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is a 6. It's good to spend some time by yourself in quiet contemplation. Schedule more of that for this weekend. It'll help get you ready for new responsibilities.

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