

# Ducks fall to conference heavyweights

Martin Mitchell has a pin and Jason Harless wins both of his matches, but Oregon loses two dual meets on the weekend

**Mindi Rice**  
Freelance Sports Reporter

Oregon looked like two different squads in the weekend's two meets, but both ended in Pacific-10 Conference losses.

Friday, Oregon (5-8 overall, 4-2 Pac-10) came out looking dead against No. 12 Boise State (6-3, 3-1). Ben VomBaur, the No. 4 wrestler at 125 from the Broncos, earned a 2-1 lead over sophomore Jacob Boyles and never let go. A five-point technical fall with near fall was awarded to VomBaur after he outscored Boyles 23-8.

Redshirt junior Jason Harless followed with the 133 weight class, fighting to earn a 3-2 decision. Bronco Jesse Brock, the defending Pac-10 champion, earned his only points on two escapes.

"I was very pleased with Jason," head coach Chuck Kearney said Friday.

Oregon's two bright spots left in the meet came at 157 and 174. Junior Branson Phillips earned a 7-0 decision over his Boise State opponent at 157. Sophomore Shane Webster, ranked No. 7 by InterMat, earned the decision at 174 by taking out his Bronco opponent 8-3.

"It's a battle of toughness, and the guys have to get tougher," Kearney said Friday.

Oregon's 27-9 loss to the Broncos was its first Pac-10 loss of the season. The

other Pac-10 team that started Friday undefeated — No. 6 Arizona State — also earned its first conference loss Friday, in an 18-16 loss to Oregon State.

Sunday, the Ducks battled the Sun Devils (10-6, 3-1). Oregon started the meet on the right footing — up 10-0 after two matches.

Sophomore Martin Mitchell pinned his opponent at the 1:11 mark of the 125 match for his sixth pin of the season.

"It's always good when you're the first match to fire up the team," Mitchell said. "I knew this was an opponent I could step up against."

Harless, the only Oregon wrestler to win both his matches this weekend, controlled No. 11 Mike Simpson. Harless earned a 13-2 four-point major decision.

*"We competed a lot better tonight ... our kids wrestled hard."*

**Chuck Kearney**  
head coach

"Just going out there with confidence is what won the match for me," Harless said.

Oregon's 10-point lead came down in the next five matches, as Arizona State fought for four decisions and a pin to put the score 18-10 in the Sun Devils' favor.

Freshman Tony Rolan built a 5-0 lead over Sun Devil Ron Renzi in the first 30 seconds of the 184 match. Rolan almost pinned Renzi twice —

once in the first period and once in the third — but couldn't hold on for the fall.

"Tony's gonna be a real good college wrestler," Kearney said. "He has continually gotten better."

Rolan earned the four-point major decision over Renzi with a 13-2 final score.

The Sun Devils forfeited the heavyweight match, but still won the dual meet 21-20.

"We competed a lot better tonight," Kearney said. "Our kids wrestled hard."

The Ducks travel to California on Wednesday for two dual conference meets.

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

## Sports briefs

### Duck soccer scores in WUSA Draft

Oregon senior goalkeeper Sarah Peters was the 28th overall selection in Sunday's Women's United Soccer Association Draft, and she'll play alongside an Oregon assistant coach for the San Jose CyberRays next season.

Peters was taken in the fourth round by the CyberRays, who also picked up Oregon assistant Keri Sanchez on Sunday via trade from the Boston Breakers. Sanchez, a former North Carolina player who has national-team experience, has started 34 games for the Breakers over the last two seasons.

"Being drafted has been a dream," Peters said. "I'm really excited to get to train with somebody with as much experience as LaKeyisia (Beene, CyberRays starter and 2001 WUSA Goalkeeper of the Year) and I look forward to that challenge."

San Jose, led by national star Brandi Chastain, won the inaugural WUSA Cup in 2001 but missed the playoffs in 2002. Ironically, the CyberRays were eliminated from playoff contention in the last game of last season by Sanchez's former team, the Breakers.

—Peter Hockaday

### Tennis rolls at home

The No. 46 Oregon women's tennis team rolled past Portland and Idaho at home this Saturday. The Ducks won both matches 7-0 without losing a single set.

No. 28 Daria Panova remained undefeated in the regular season and extended her win streak to nine matches dating back to her Pac-10 Indoor Championship.

The men improved their record to 2-1 on Saturday with a 5-2 victory over No. 72 Brigham Young in Provo, Utah.

No. 64 Manuel Kost came back from an abdominal injury to win the number four singles match for the Ducks 6-2, 7-6 in his first match of

the regular season.

The Ducks played New Mexico State on Sunday.

Next weekend both the men and women play at home. The men take on Portland and the women battle Sacramento State, Pacific and California-Irvine.

—Ryan Heath

### Softball opens season in style

The Duck softball team opened the season swinging for the fences, and while they didn't hit many balls over the fence, they still knocked a few proverbial dingers.

Freshman pitcher Amy Harris starred for Oregon, giving up only two earned runs and 13 hits in 16 innings as the Ducks went 4-1 over a weekend-long tournament in San Marcos, Texas. Oregon opened with a 10-0 win over Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, then had three consecutive 2-1 wins over Texas Tech, host Southwest Texas State and Houston before falling 3-1 to Arkansas on Sunday.

Harris, a highly-touted recruit who led North Eugene High School to a state championship in 2000, won the Texas Tech game and lost the Arkansas game despite giving up only one earned run.

—Peter Hockaday

### Golf heads to Ping

After a two month layoff, the Oregon men's golf team will travel to Tucson, Ariz., to begin the second half of its 2002-03 schedule today and Tuesday at the Ping Arizona Intercollegiate. The par-71, 6,900-yard Arizona National Course will test the 15 squads participating. Oregon, which finished in the top 10 in all four events it played during the fall season, will face 11 of the nation's top 50 teams. Included in the field is No. 3 Wake Forest, host and No. 10 Arizona, No. 15 New Mexico, No. 17 UCLA, No. 21 Pepperdine, along with two-time defending Pacific-10 Conference champion USC.

Ducks competing in the two-day event include seniors John Ellis and Chris Carnahan, junior Jimmy

White and freshmen Gregg LaVoie and Justin St. Clair. Ellis, Oregon's most dominant player thus far, completed an impressive fall with two top-10 finishes and a stroke average of 72.1.

—Scott Archer

### Track squads build to success in Idaho

Samie Parker and Niki McEwan lived up to the hype and starred for the Oregon track and field squads in their second meet of the indoor season, the Bodybuilding.com Invitational in Nampa, Idaho.

Parker notched an NCAA provisional mark (6.68 seconds) in the 60-meter dash, the football star's first race of the season. McEwan also notched an NCAA-provisional height in the pole vault, jumping 13 feet, 9 1/4 inches one week after matching the Oregon record at 14-1 1/4.

The Ducks had four wins and three runners-up all told in the Idaho meet.

—Peter Hockaday

## Men's

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first half, but couldn't find their touch to start the second half, going 2-for-12. The Trojans capitalized, building an 11-point lead early in the half after Desmond Farmer hit back-to-back three-pointers.

Ridnour brought the Ducks back within four, at 62-66, after he hit a three with 9:28 left. But that's as close as Oregon would get.

"As bad as we played, it was a three-point game with like seven minutes to go — that ought to tell

you something," Kent said.

Even more revealing was Oregon's sloppy first half. The Ducks, who average 14.8 turnovers per game, had 20 turnovers in the first 20 minutes — tying a season-high for a full game — thanks in large part to a harassing Trojan zone defense.

"SC had something to do with maybe five or six of (the turnovers), but they were just mental breakdowns on our part, poor decision, poor passes," Kent said.

Because of mistakes of its own, USC (13 turnovers) wasn't able to

pull away in a half that featured 12 lead changes, and the Trojans led 40-34 at the break.

Joseph kept the Ducks close in the first half, scoring 15 points on 6-of-8 shooting. Ridnour had just four first-half points and five turnovers.

"We got the split (on the road), but I'm not happy with it," Kent said. "The best thing to do is regroup and get ready for Stanford and Cal coming in for two big ballgames."

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

## Women's

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After an intense battle on both ends, with time winding down, Polk delivered a dagger with 52 seconds left to give the Wildcats a four point lead.

But Oregon had some fire power of its own.

On the other end, Ganes grabbed an offensive rebound with just more than 30 seconds left to play, and converted while getting fouled. Her foul shot was right on

the money to bring Oregon within one point.

The battle ended after that free-throw.

The damage had been done. Polk and the Wildcats won the battle this time, but the war is far from over. With Polk and Ganes just freshmen and Bills a sophomore, the ground work is in place for it to become a war for the ages.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

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