

Wrestlers split matches in Golden State

Two seniors and a sophomore win both matchups on Wednesday, but a forfeit at 125 loses one dual for Oregon

Wrestling

Mindi Rice
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The Ducks battled Road Runners and Mustangs on Wednesday, splitting two matches against Pacific-10 Conference opponents.

Oregon (6-9 overall, 5-3 Pac-10) began the day by ending its four-match dual meet losing streak with a 26-16 win over Cal State-Bakersfield.

Starting at the 133 weight class, the Road Runners took their only lead of the day when Matt Sanchez earned a four-point major decision over sophomore Jacob Boyles, 13-0.

Senior Casey Hunt put Oregon ahead 6-4 after the 141 match. Hunt pinned Road Runner Anthony Baza at the 1:30 mark of the match — exactly halfway through the first period. The pin is Hunt's third at 141, and fifth overall this season.

Tony Overstake followed his senior classmate with a four-point major decision over Roberto Vargas at 149. After an early take-down by Vargas, Overstake controlled the match, winning 16-7.

Junior Branson Phillips earned his second-straight victory at 157, with a 4-3 win over his opponent. Sophomore Luke Larwin lost a close 7-6 match to his 165 opponent.

With the Ducks up 13-7, No. 11 Shane Webster gave Oregon its first 10-point lead with a four-point major decision. The sophomore took out Matt Montiero, 19-7. Following at 184, freshman

Tony Rolen suffered a 5-1 defeat to Road Runner Bryan Travers.

Oregon took the meet from Cal State-Bakersfield when sophomore Elias Soto had his second pin of the season, and his first at 197. Soto pinned Scott O'Rear at the 5:30 mark of the match after racking up an 11-0 lead.

Freshman Neil Phillips scored the Ducks' last three points with a 2-1 win over Chad Trokler. The two wrestlers finished 1-1, but Phillips earned the winning point with superior riding time. The decision marks Phillips' fourth dual meet win.

The Ducks forfeited the 125 weight class to end the match, while earning the team victory 26-16.

Oregon hit the road after its win against the Road Runners and headed west to Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo to battle the Mustangs.

Cal Poly (9-6, 5-1) started the meet with a win at the 133 weight class, but Oregon came back to win four of the next five matches. The Ducks could not hold on, however, giving Cal Poly its fifth conference victory.

Boyles lost the 133 match 12-5, but Hunt put the Ducks ahead with a four-point major decision over Andy Kim. Hunt's 17-6 win was his first major decision in a dual meet this season.

Overstake followed with a 6-4 decision over Matt Cox. Overstake won both of his matches on Wednesday, giving him a 16-7 record at 149 this season. At 157, Branson Phillips lost the decision 5-0.

Larwin came back from his earlier defeat to win the 165 match, 4-1.

Webster ran over Mustang Brett Schumann with a 24-6 win. Webster earned five points for the

Ducks with the technical fall with near fall victory, scoring the near fall at the 5:50 mark of the match.

The Ducks ran out of steam starting with the 184 weight class. Rolen lost a 12-6 decision, while redshirt junior Jake Leair lost a major decision at 197. Leair's 16-4 loss was his first dual-meet matchup since early January.

Neil Phillips lost 3-1 in the heavyweight matchup. Oregon forfeited the 125 weight class for the second time on the day, giving the Mustangs a 22-15 conference win.

The Ducks will stay in California to battle non-conference opponents Menlo College and Fresno State on Friday.

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Joseph

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But becoming a Duck was harder than just signing a letter of intent and moving to Eugene. It took Joseph all summer and most of the preseason to get adjusted to the new system, a new environment and a new team.

"They're a family already," Joseph said of joining the Ducks. "It's like trying to adopt someone into a family. It took them a long time to accept me. They knew I was behind three or four years, so it just took a lot of games and a lot of practices to get comfortable."

Adjusting to his new academic responsibilities, however, didn't take quite as long. In his first term at the University, Joseph finished with one of the highest GPAs on the team. He's on course to graduate ahead of schedule with a sociology degree.

His secret to academic success? "Just pay attention every day and go to class; that's half of it," he said. "And if you study, it's even better."

Now comfortable with his role off the bench, Joseph has become a consistent scorer for the Ducks, averaging 11.3 points in Pacific-10 Conference games, and replacing

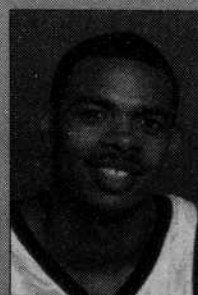
Andre Joseph file

Born: Tyronzic Andre Joseph on May 7, 1981 in Houston, Texas.

High School: Rated 107th-best high school player in the nation coming out of Furr High School in Houston. District MVP and All-State selection while at Furr.

Before Oregon: Redshirted first year at Stephen F. Austin before transferring to Lee Junior College in Baytown, Texas. Was a two-year standout at Lee, averaging 22.3 points per game his second season and was an All-Region selection.

Oregon: Played in all 20 games for the Ducks, starting four, including the last three as Luke Jackson has been out with a finger injury. Averaging 9.5 points per game overall and 11.3 points per game in Pac-10 play. Fourth on the team in rebounding, with 3.5 boards per game.



Joseph

some of Jones' athleticism.

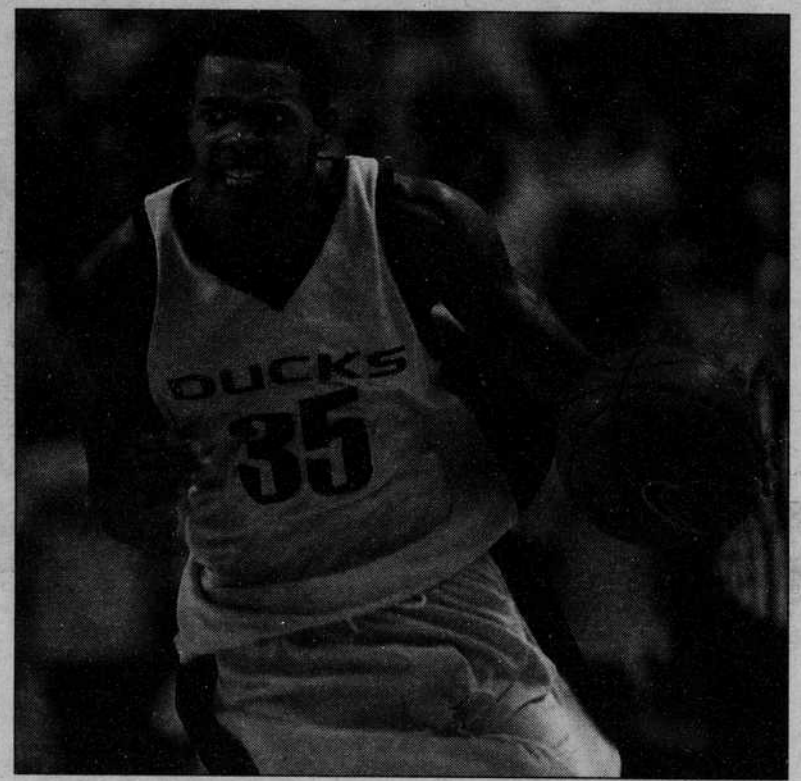
"Nobody can replace what Freddie did, but Andre's another great athletic guard on this team," Davis said. "He definitely gives us a bit of a lift off the bench."

Though he admits he was nervous about pleasing the Oregon crowd in his first few games at Mac Court, Joseph has settled down and created quite a highlight reel for himself at The Pit. It's hard to forget Joseph's two blocks against Arizona, when Jason Gardner appeared to have a couple of easy,

fast-break layins. And he created a buzz with that assist-to-himself dunk against Washington State. How about that, huh?

Though he has started four games this season — three when Luke Jackson was injured — Joseph's role remains as Oregon's sixth man.

"I think the sign of a person with good character is when they can humble themselves for the betterment of the team," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "Here's a guy that could easily be



Mark McCambridge Emerald

Joseph has developed into Oregon's solid sixth man, averaging 9.5 points per game.

starting for us right now. But he's said, 'Coach, whatever you want me to do, I'll do.' I just think that says a lot about his character."

And a lot about how far Joseph's

come since high school. All it took was a good balancing act.

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Women's

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at times, well offensively, against Stanford here, there are some things we can improve upon. I think that will be our goal."

How the Ducks deal with Maples will be key. The structure seats 7,391 — the smallest in the Pac-10 — but has been a "house of horrors," as Smith called it, for opponents over the years, evidenced by Stanford's dominance.

"The mindset is just focus on

what you can control, and you can't control the house of horrors," Smith said. "You can control how you perform, your effort, your intensity and your togetherness. If we focus on ourselves and what we can do, then the other things will take care of themselves."

Since squeaking by Oregon, the Cardinal have been a mixed bag, at least by their standards.

Stanford (17-2, 9-1) defeated Washington State, Washington and UCLA — by just two, 80-78 — before losing its first Pac-10 game

since the 2000-01 season. USC played the Cardinal tough, jumping out to a 49-35 halftime lead on Jan. 26, and held off the strong Stanford offense for the win.

But to say the Cardinal are less of a team is another statement.

"They're sixth in the nation, and you know, we're not ranked, not doing so well, so we just have to go in there and play as hard as we can," senior Alissa Edwards said. "We can play with them. We'll take that going into the game and have that confidence."

Recruits

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to attend Oregon in the spring, allowing him to join the Ducks earlier than most high school recruits. With the Oregon quarterback situation in flux, it could allow him to jump into the mix for the starting job, although it isn't likely.

"His chances of playing will be enhanced by being here in the spring," Bellotti said.

At defensive back, Bellotti believes the Ducks have made strides, specifically with two junior college standouts signed, as well as three

high school recruits, two of which stand 5-foot-11-inches or higher.

But it is the one recruit under that height that received most of Bellotti's attention Wednesday.

Ryan Gilliam, of Lincoln High School in Tallahassee, Fla., is considered one of the top 11 cornerbacks in the nation, according to ESPN.

Standing 5-foot-9-inches, Gilliam is known mostly for his quickness and explosion. His brother, Mike, is currently a running back at Georgia.

"We don't usually recruit Florida, but we took some shots there," Bellotti said. "He fell in love with (Eu-

gene). I would say (he is) a very brave and courageous young man who saw what he liked."

Getting back to the offensive side of the ball, Bellotti signed a group of wide receivers that has no shortage of height and size.

The group is led by Marcus Maxwell, a junior college transfer from Diablo Valley College in California. He averaged five receptions per game last season en route to earning a spot on the first-team all-Golden Gate Conference squad.

"He provides the big wide receiver we've been lacking," Bellotti said.

Bellotti failed to sign a running

back and acknowledged the Ducks had been recruiting between three and five players at the position. However, he said he is confident in the ability of Oregon's returners at the position.

Two offensive linemen signed with Oregon, but according to Bellotti, the Ducks did not have many scholarships to give at the position area because 13 scholarship players return next season.

Of Oregon's signees, four will attend school in the spring of this year. In addition to DuRocher, the list includes junior college cornerbacks Marc Walker and controver-

sial recruit Rodney Woods, as well as high school wide receiver Jordan Carey.

Brandon Bair, a tight end and defensive end from St. Anthony, Idaho, may decide to go on a mission, although that decision has not been made.

It is still yet to be seen how much of an impact the signings will make on Oregon, but it is a class that offers opportunities.

"We're going to put more size and speed on the field," Bellotti said.

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