

# Wrestling

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with Larwin coming away with the 4-3 victory.

"It was a big win for Luke," Kearney said. "(Arbogast) is ranked third in the conference. This is the kind of guy Luke's going to have to beat to make it to nationals and to win the Pac-10 tournament."

No. 11 Shane Webster began with a takedown in the first five seconds of the 174 match, and didn't let up the pace. With five takedowns in the first period and three each during the second and third periods, Webster controlled the flow of the match. The sophomore earned a point for riding time and held his opponent to 10 escapes, winning a four-point major decision, 23-11.

Webster's win put Oregon ahead of the Vikings, 20-0.

"It was a good win for Shane," Kearney said.

Freshman Tony Rolen at 184 and sophomore Elias Soto at 197 both earned victories by forfeit from their Portland State opponents.

Neil Phillips, wrestling the heavy-

weight match, earned his first collegiate four-point major decision. Phillips scored a takedown in the first period, and a reversal and four more takedowns in the third period on his way to the 13-5 victory.

"That's his thing," Kearney said. "He took some risks."

The dual rolled back around to 125 with the Ducks leading 36-0 and sophomore Martin Mitchell on the mat. Mitchell scored two takedowns, a reversal and a near fall for a 9-4 victory.

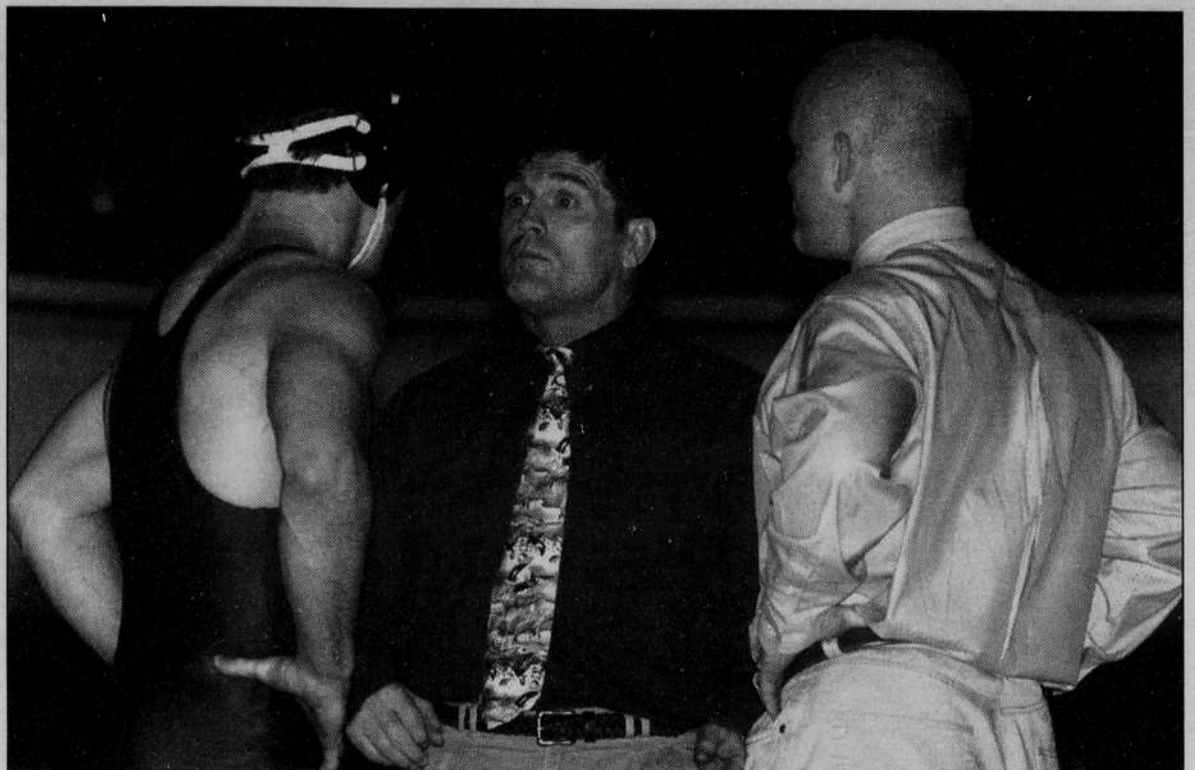
To wrap up the meet for the Ducks, redshirt freshman Jacob Boyles fought for a 5-3 decision. The win was Boyles' second in the Pac-10 in three attempts.

"We did some things real good tonight," Kearney said.

Oregon finished the dual season with an 8-11 overall record, going 6-4 in the Pac-10.

The Ducks now have 10 days to prepare for the Pac-10 tournament, hosted by Boise State. The tournament begins March 2.

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald.



Oregon coach Chuck Kearney (center) discusses a match with Shane Webster (left). The Ducks beat PSU on Wednesday.

# Men's

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"A smart coach or a smart team, you don't look at Washington State or Washington's record," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "They've played everybody tough as of late. They're both very, very tough on their home floors."

First up are the Cougars at 7 p.m. (the game will not be televised). Washington State hasn't won since a Dec. 23 victory over Fresno State. Only two of their 13-straight losses have been by less than 10 points.

But the Ducks talked about that very failure as being the Cougars' biggest tool against them. Oregon will play in front of a Friel Court crowd that has averaged 2,259 fans in six Pac-10 games this season, 1,827 fans if you discount the record-setting game against Arizona, which 4,419 fans attended.

"Pullman, not that many fans and everything, we've just got to go up there and play within ourselves," Oregon guard James Davis said. "I've got much respect for Washington State, they played us tough down here."

Ahh, the infamous 76-66 "tough" game that the Ducks and Cougars played in Eugene on Jan. 25. The Oregon players agreed that if they had played better in that game, it wouldn't have been nearly so tough.

"We need to go up there and give them our best effort because I don't think we gave them that when they came down here," Kent said.

On Saturday, Oregon heads to Seattle to continue the blooming rivalry that sometimes tastes like onion to the Oregon team (the game will be televised at 4 p.m. on Fox Sports). The Ducks blew out the Huskies by 25 points in January at Mac Court, but the teams have split the last 12 games in the rivalry in half, six apiece. Oregon lost a close one in Seattle last year, 97-92.

"Definitely it's a rivalry," Davis said. "They're athletic, talented always. We're going to expect their best game."

As Doug Wrenn goes, so go the Huskies against the



Adam Amato Emerald

Ian Crosswhite and the big men will be key in Washington.

Ducks. The talented forward scored only 10 points against Oregon in Eugene, but scored 32 points in 36 minutes of Washington's win last year.

When the Huskies played in Eugene, Wrenn was the focus of many of the Pit Crew's chants, including "U-Conn re-ject," a reference to Wrenn getting kicked off the Connecticut team two years ago.

You can bet that when the Ducks play at Washington on Saturday, the home crowd won't be cheering against Wrenn.

But they won't be cheering against Luke Ridnour either. And that may be just what the Ducks need to go two-for-Washington.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.

# Bev-olution

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Smith said. "It does drain you of energy, and I think you're not really conscious of that."

In her second season coaching at Oregon, Smith dealt with more than some do in five years.

The suspension of senior Shaquala Williams is one of the most controversial issues Smith faced. It still remains a mystery and a topic Smith was not willing to elaborate on.

"I don't really have anything to add to what has already been said. What I said when the situation came up is what I stand by."

A grocery list of injuries and the loss of sophomore Amy Parrish are among Smith's struggles. With blow after blow from every angle, the team kept rebounding but was still shaken.

"When you get rocked a little bit at the beginning of the year, it kind of shakes your foundation," Smith said.

Oregon has put its horrific past behind it. The Ducks will now try to turn the corner toward the end

of this season and continue the streak of consecutive postseason tournament appearances.

Oregon has to look to the 2003-04 season and wonder if it will be a repeat. But Smith sees her team's immediate future as being bright, with three new recruits coming to Oregon for next year.

"She wants to have a smart team that can really know the game instead of having to run set play after set play, but build complete plays and understand the game," Ganes said.

Through her time here, Smith has become part of a program that is full of surprises. Even with her extended résumé of experience, some things can never be prepared for. Her coaching has proved that the coaching staff and team can weather any storm.

"You can't foresee adversity, you can't predict what's going to happen — you just have to deal with it," Smith said. "We just have to absolutely get better, there is no doubt about it."

Smith's coaching career has just begun at Oregon. The halls of The Pit had her name engraved long before she decided to coach.

Now she is on the path to leave her imprint once again, but this time in a suit, as her uniform days have already placed her in the Oregon Hall of Fame.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.



Smith

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