

Duck coaches lead wrestlers by example

Oregon's three coaches each bring distinct experiences to the mat, helping the Ducks be a well-rounded squad

Wrestling

Mindi Rice
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With eight All-American awards, three Pacific-10 Conference individual championships and two Big Eight Conference individual championships between them, Oregon's coaches have a strong history of wrestling talent and knowledge.

Head coach Chuck Kearney competed at Oklahoma State in his first two seasons, finishing third at the Big Eight Championships, and was named a first-team freshman All-

American. Kearney then returned to his home state, competing for Oregon for two seasons.

In his senior year at Oregon, Kearney placed fifth in the NCAA Championships at 177, leading his squad with a 34-8-1 record. The mark of 34 wins puts Kearney at seventh, with three other Ducks, for most victories in an Oregon season.

Sitting at fourth on that same list, assistant coach Jeremy Ensrud earned a 35-3 record in his senior season as a Duck. During his four seasons, Ensrud compiled a 106-29 record. The 106 victories have Ensrud at No. 4 on the career victories list for Oregon.

Ensrud, a two-time All-American, still trains and competes in freestyle wrestling with Olympic aspirations.

Assistant coach Rick Stewart is the only coach who is not an Oregon alumnus. Stewart is a four-time All-Ameri-

can and two-time NCAA champion from Oklahoma State.

Stewart served as a volunteer assistant coach for his high school alma mater before coming to Oregon. At Duncan High School, Stewart was named Assistant Coach of the Year in 1996 by the Oklahoma Wrestling Coaches Association.

Each coach brings a different flavor and experience to the mat, helping to round out the Oregon program.

It's been awhile

Before its Feb. 19 shutout of Portland State, 42-0, Oregon had not held an opponent scoreless for an entire dual meet since the 1981-82 season, when the Ducks blanked Humboldt State, 47-0.

Oregon has not been held scoreless in a dual since the 1983-1984 season, when Utah State beat the Ducks, 49-0.

Since the 1953-54 season, Oregon has been shut out nine times, while holding opponents scoreless in 25 dual meets.

Ducking the rankings

Oregon's Shane Webster remains the only wrestler ranked by InterMat, sitting No. 11 in the 174 weight class. The sophomore finished the season with a team-leading 26-4 record, including an 8-1 record in the Pac-10.

Webster is also ranked No. 11 by The Wrestling Mall and Amateur Wrestling News, while W.I.N. Magazine has Webster at No. 12.

Redshirt junior Jason Harless is ranked No. 17 by Amateur Wrestling News and No. 20 by The Wrestling Mall at 133. Harless went 6-1 against Pac-10 opponents this season, and beat Arizona State's No. 12 Mike Simpson twice.

Senior Tony Overstake is ranked

No. 20 by Amateur Wrestling News at the 149 weight class. Overstake led the teams with eight wins by major decision.

Harless and Overstake lead four wrestlers who are listed as "other wrestlers" in their respective weight classes. Sophomore Martin Mitchell at 125 and senior Casey Hunt at 141 are also listed.

Pac-10 Powers

Boise State and Arizona State look to be the front runners for the Pac-10 Championship. Boise State, the defending conference champion, is ranked No. 11 by InterMat. Arizona State, which finished third behind the Broncos and Oregon last year, is ranked No. 13 by InterMat.

Mindi Rice is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Women's

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to play that Friday, then we have to."

If the Ducks can overcome the Trojans — who are 7-8 since that loss to Oregon — then Smith's squad would most likely be assured of at least a sixth-place finish because of the two

wins over USC. Arizona State must lose to either Stanford or California for that to happen.

If Oregon is to impress down south, it will need its sharpshooters to forget about the Washington contest. The Ducks shot just 19 percent from the field during the first half of the loss, and made just a pair of two-pointers

during the half.

Davis will be a key figure in the offensive attack, and should benefit from playing close to home. The La Habra, Calif., native grew up just 30 miles away from the USC campus.

"It's always good to go home and see mom's face and be able to see family, but also be able to go out there and

take care of business," Davis said.

The Ducks will stay in Los Angeles for a contest against UCLA Saturday. The Bruins decimated Oregon, 93-68, earlier in the season.

UCLA has definitely been the surprise of the Pac-10. Expected to finish near the bottom of the conference after an eighth-place finish last year, the

Bruins are now sitting pretty in fourth. They play Oregon State on Thursday, then host the Ducks in the final regular-season contest for both teams.

Saturday's tip is set for 2 p.m., and the game will be aired on Fox Sports Net.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 27). Friends are a constant source of support and inspiration this year. At least one friend may even inspire you to try something radically different. Give up a dream, and a fear or two, for an improvement you'd never get otherwise. 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 7 _ The more you learn, the more appears possible _ and, of course, the more possibilities appear. Keep studying!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) _ Today is a 7 _ Don't spend all day dreaming about somebody you love. Fuss over someone you respect and admire, too.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) _ Today is a 6 _ Later in the day should be easier, and tomorrow is a lot more fun. Finish up loose ends and so that you'll have more time to play then.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) _ Today is an 8 _ You can't live on love alone, although it would sure be nice if you could. By pooling your resources and your talents, that won't be necessary.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) _ Today is a 5 _ The hardest part is almost over. Don't give up. Not only will it get easier, but there'll soon be more helpers. You've just about toughed it out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) _ Today is an 8 _ FR in another date around noon, before the

workload gets too hectic. Don't schedule one for tomorrow, though. Instead, pack a lunch tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) _ Today is a 6 _ A kitchen-table business could do very well and bring you hours of enjoyment. It's also a great source of gifts for family and friends _ gifts that won't cost a fortune.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) _ Today is an 8 _ The more you learn, the more valuable you become. That's very evident now. And if you love what you're studying, perfect!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) _ Today is a 5 _ After you commit to a really big goal, there's often a moment of doubt. Can you do it? Maybe not, but it'll be fun to try.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) _ Today is an 8 _ You do think a lot about others. This time, consider yourself. Which of your options will you enjoy best? It's OK to do this.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) _ Today is a 5 _ An inner satisfaction may be your best reward. The money appears to be coming, too, but that won't last nearly as long.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) _ Today is a 7 _ It's time to count your blessings and also list the things that worked. You'll soon review your plans again, and knowing what works will help.

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