

Bay Area match begins long trip for wrestling

Oregon travels to Stanford to take on the Cardinal today, which will begin three away matches this week

By Scott Archer
Freelance Reporter

Let the dizzying mid-season schedule resume. That's how things have been going for the Oregon wrestling team as it

heads to Stanford today for one of three matches this week.

DUCK WRESTLING

Pacific-10 Conference.

If history is an indication of how things will unfold, Oregon has to like its chances.

The Ducks are 29-2 all-time against

the Cardinal. Stanford is coming off its first Pac-10 loss after No. 21 Cal State-Bakersfield beat them, 21-18.

While Oregon boasts a ranked wrestler with No. 20 Jason Harless, Stanford has junior Matt Gentry, who is ranked fifth in the nation and No. 1 overall in the Pac-10 in the 157-pound division. Gentry has accumulated a record of 23-0 this season.

The Cardinal also features junior Brad Metzler, ranked 12th in the nation and No. 1 in the Pac-10 in his

141-pound weight class. Metzler enters the tournament at 15-2.

Officiating may become a concern for the Ducks with three days of matches away from home.

"It's a challenge with officiating," head coach Chuck Kearney said. "It's an advantage being at home with officials. (Officials) don't know us, and how we wrestle, it's a bit of a disadvantage. And we don't get to wrestle in front of friends and family."

Kearney also said that home officials usually understand the tactics and strategies of a home team better than a visiting team, giving the former a slight edge in scoring.

Oregon last faced Stanford on Jan. 17, 2003. At that time the Ducks were 2-0 and beat the Cardinal, 32-6. The Ducks nearly swept Stanford, winning eight of 10 matches.

Scott Archer is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

TEST

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to return home for the first time since Dec. 17.

Oregon (6-4, 1-2) has gone 33-2 at McArthur Court the last three seasons

and has not lost to Washington in Eugene since the 2000-01 season.

"As much passion as I have for this building, to be out of this building for so long, I have not experienced this before," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "This is a team this building has been very good to. We've been

able to get into some great rhythms and gain a lot of confidence playing in this building."

Being away from McArthur Court is something the Ducks are not terribly used to. Last season's biggest break was 16 days in between games against Portland and Florida A&M.

The 2001-02 season saw the Ducks leave after a game against Long Beach State on Nov. 17, returning Dec. 14 to take on Pepperdine. In the four games the Ducks played on the road during that span, they went 1-3.

Oregon went 2-3 in five games during the 29 days this season.

"We've missed that confidence of being at home in front of the home crowd," Kent said. "Particularly the younger players who need to gain confidence and seem to do that in this type of environment."

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

LARSEN

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"Jen makes the whole atmosphere tons better," Co-Coordinator Traci Geist said. "Not only is she a good coach, but she is so easy to talk to and she makes it a friendly environment. She is definitely going to turn our program around."

Larsen and Bray recognize their relationship with the lacrosse team as a partnership. Both sides are benefiting from one another's involvement.

"Every time we come out they are always just thanking us for being there," Larsen said. "It is good for us because it keeps us coaching and it is good for

them because it gives them instruction."

Not only does it keep Larsen and Bray active, but they only have known each other for six months, and they are using this experience to learn how one another coaches. In addition, they each need to know how to best incorporate their own coaching styles into one solid program.

"It's good for our staff to get out there and coach because then we can figure out our coaching style," Larsen said.

Larsen admits beginning a Division-I lacrosse program will be challenging and that she is entering into a world of "unknowns."

For now, Larsen is grateful that she has found a group of girls who are as excited about the sport as she is and

who can help her begin a competitive program that will "someday be competing for the national championship."

"It's not so much about the University, but that there is a presence of lacrosse in the state of Oregon and that there are people here who are very passionate about the sport and it's nice to be surrounded by that," Larsen said.

Next fall, Larsen and Bray will welcome 17 freshmen, who will ideally join a small group of upperclassmen who will have participated in Club lacrosse.

Until then, it's to the Club field they go.

Kirsten McEwen is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

VICTORY

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Carolyn Ganes, who has been nursing a swollen right ankle, will be available to help boost Oregon's interior defense.

The Ducks won 14 of the previous 15 meetings with the Huskies before last season, when Washing-

ton swept Oregon.

Despite a slow start, Smith said Oregon respects Washington and is preparing for its best shot.

"You always have to beware of a wounded animal," Smith said. "We're expecting a great game from (Washington), as always."

Contact the sports reporter at jonroetman@dailyemerald.com.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 15). You may encounter career difficulties, but don't let them stop you. With a new team and several new technical skills, you'll expand your influence. 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 5 _ A recent setback was meant to teach you to share _ and that includes sharing responsibility. You still believe that you can do the best job, but you realize you can't do it all by yourself. Empower those around you. Bring out the best in them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) _ Today is an 8 _ You ought to notice a calming trend that's entering your life. The tension you've been under will ease. Finish a difficult job.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) _ Today is a 6 _ It's almost time to get back to work, and in a very important way. Clear all the distractions out of your life so that you can concentrate.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) _ Today is an 8 _ Something at home that you've been putting up with needs to be changed. Do it now, even if you and your mate don't completely agree. Make your world more comfortable. You'll get used to it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) _ Today is a 7 _ You have some great ideas, but some of them might take more work than you're willing to put in. Over the next few days, decide whether these ideas

are worth the effort.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) _ Today is an 8 _ A person you truly care about feels the same way about you. Set up a date in the next day or two to discuss possibilities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) _ Today is a 6 _ You'll have to get slightly more serious for the next couple of days. If you do the work, the money will start coming in.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) _ Today is an 8 _ After a slight setback, you'll find it easier to progress. You're smart, attractive and getting support from somebody you love. This is good.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) _ Today is a 5 _ You're not good at keeping secrets, but it's a skill you can learn. It's OK to hold some things back, especially where money is concerned.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) _ Today is an 8 _ Your power is increasing, so don't worry too much about an upsetting situation from the recent past. It's inconsequential, except for what you can learn from it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) _ Today is a 6 _ Go over your plans again, taking recent developments into consideration. Move slowly, but know that more work and more money should come in the next few days.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) _ Today is an 8 _ You'll be glad you saved your money, or at least some of it, anyway. You'll soon get the chance to do something fun, and you'll be glad you can accept the invitation.

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