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Ducks lose to the Cardinal for first time in nine years

The Ducks can't continue their winning streak against Stanford, losing 31-6 and falling to 1-6 on the season

By Scott Archer
Freelance Reporter

It's hard to know where to start with the Ducks. Each step forward is met with a step, or even two, backward.

The Oregon wrestling team traveled to Stanford Thursday in search of its first Pacific-10 Conference win.

The Ducks were coming off a close win over Army, something coaches and players alike felt was a stepping stone during a grueling stretch in their schedule.

Instead, Oregon received a reality check in the form of a 31-6 loss at the hands of the Cardinal.

The loss was the first to Stanford since the 1995 season.

Oregon entered the match against Stanford 1-5 overall and 0-1 in Pacific-10 Conference play and in desperate

need of a Pac-10 victory. Now, the Ducks head into more Pac-10 action with a ledger of 1-6 overall and 0-2 in conference play.

"We are a young team and when you have starters out of the lineup it makes those matches even that much more important to win and we didn't get the job done," Oregon head coach Chuck Kearney said. "We lost five close matches that we were in and capable of winning."

On the bright side for the Ducks, junior Luke Larwin continues to impress after earning his fourth straight dual victory. He defeated Brian Perry, 3-1. Larwin upped his record to 17-6.

Oregon also received a strong performance from senior Jake Leair. Leair out-dueled Ian Bork, 5-3, for his second dual win of the year.

Oregon started two fresh faces in the loss at Stanford. Freshman Elliott Tracy earned the first start of his career, filling in for fellow freshman Cyle Hartzell. Also, Johnny Lugo received his first taste of competition this season, but lost to No. 12 Brad Metzler.

Oregon has a chance to put the loss behind it quickly with a quick turnaround into today's match against UC Davis.

Oregon will face the Aggies looking to even its overall record to 4-4. The Ducks have never lost to UC Davis in eight previous meetings dating back to the 1980-81 season. Davis lost to Boise State 21-12, for its first Pac-10 loss. However, Davis beat Cal State-Fullerton Nov. 21, 33-9.

Derek Moore leads the Aggies in the 133-pound weight division. With a record of 14-5 Moore is ranked fifth in the Pac-10, along with teammates Tommy Schurkamp, who is fifth in the 125-pound class. Jeff Bristol is third in the 141-pound class, while Kevin Jones is fourth in the 149-pound class. Mike Font is second in the 165-pound class, followed by Brandon Bear, fourth in the 184-pound class.

Oregon will then stay in Davis where it will participate in the Aggie Open Saturday. It will be an open event with potential matches in the shape of No. 21 Cal-Sate Bakersfield, Cal Poly, Menlo College, Southern Oregon and Fresno State.

"The key for us now is to learn from this, bounce back and be ready to compete," Kearney said.

Scott Archer is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

Panova unavailable for Ducks as team heads north to Seattle

The Duck women will open up at the Pac-10 Indoors, but without their top player

By Alex Tam
Sports Freelancer

After nearly two months off, the Oregon women's and men's tennis teams finally return to the court for competition this weekend to start off the 2004 regular season.

The women will open up the new year at the Pacific-10 Indoor Championships in Seattle beginning today.

Following a fall season that saw junior Daria Panova become the IIA

Northwest Regional singles champion and strong play from newcomers Monica Hoz De Vila and Dominika Dieskova, head coach Nils Schyllander said he wants his team to continue to build on that success.

"I'd just like to see how they compete after the break," Schyllander said. "I'd like to see them make a statement and show that they're ready to go. That's what we expect."

The Ducks, however, received some bad news over the break when it was learned that Panova will be held out of the tournament due to a finger injury. The injury has prevented Panova from hitting backhands the past week. It is a tough break for the Russia native, who won the Pac-10 Indoor singles title last year and will not be able to defend her crown.

Oregon will now look to senior Courtney Nagle to lead the team over the weekend. Nagle was ranked No. 35 nationally in the preseason.

The Pacific-10 Conference is arguably the nation's premier conference

with five teams in the top 11 nationally. Second-ranked Stanford has already developed a dynasty in women's tennis after winning the national title two times in the last three years and 12 times overall. Oregon currently stands at No. 40 in the nation.

"Every match you play (in the conference) is tough," Schyllander said. "It doesn't matter where you play. They are all national type players."

No. 7-ranked Washington will host this weekend's tournament. The Huskies are eager to take advantage of their home court and compete in front of their fans at the Lloyd Nordstrom Tennis Center on campus.

"(This tournament) has been an avenue for all of the northwest teams to gain access to the powerhouses in the Pac-10," Washington head coach Patty McCain said. "Having the opportunity to get on the court and compete with those teams means that our players are less intimidated later in the season

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