

Wrestlers improve, but lose

Oregon finishes its road swing 0-3, but finds some positives during the trip

By Scott Archer
Freelance Reporter

Improvement.
That's a word Oregon can use after its latest road trip.

DUCK WRESTLING

Oregon entered the weekend with a match against UC-Davis on Friday, a day after it lost to Stanford for the first time in nine years.

The Ducks lost to the Aggies 24-18, which was an improvement from the 31-6 loss to Stanford the Ducks endured the night before.

The loss dropped the Ducks to 1-7 overall and, more importantly, 0-3 in the Pacific-10 Conference.

"We wrestled better tonight," head coach Chuck Kearney said. "We still have a lot of things to work on. We are asking a lot of our wrestlers to wrestle

out of weight class because they are just overmatched and oversized."

Oregon entered the match receiving a string of strong individual performances from Luke Larwin. That didn't even seem to go right Friday night. Larwin lost 11-7 to Mike Font of UC-Davis in the 165-pound weight class.

Jake Leair won his third-straight dual match. Leair defeated Evan Hendrix 10-8 in the 197-pound class. Leair now stands at 6-9 overall and 3-5 in dual matches this season.

Jason Harless beat Cesar Correa, 6-1. Sophomore Chet McBee won in the 184-pound class, beating Frank Richmond 9-8, followed by freshman Cody Parker, who beat fellow heavy-weight Michael Clarkston, 14-8.

After Parker's match, the score stood at 9-8 with five matches to go.

Oregon stayed in Davis, Calif., after the dual meet with the Aggies, for the Aggie Open on Saturday.

The Ducks had five wrestlers place in the tournament. Larwin finished second in the 165-pound class after a loss to Iowa's Mark Perry, 8-1. Larwin

finished the day 4-1 to improve his team-leading record to 21-8.

Leair followed up his strong performance from the day before to finish third in his respective 197-pound class with a 4-1 finish in the tournament. Harless started the tournament well, going 3-0, but had to forfeit his last two matches. He finished sixth.

"We got some wins early on, wrestled with some emotion and went on a roll and made some good improvements," Kearney said. "We're real pleased with what we saw and this will help up spring board through the rest of the season."

Oregon also received a promising showing from sophomore Jacob Boyles, who placed third on the day with a 4-1 record.

The Ducks will finally get to return home after more than a month on the road. Oregon will host Fresno State this Friday, followed by a match with Cal State-Bakersfield on Jan. 25.

Scott Archer is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

SPORTS BRIEF

Oregon's indoor season gets underway

The Oregon men's and women's track and field indoor seasons finally got underway Saturday, and the Ducks began in fine fashion.

The Oregon women's team earned one NCAA provisional qualifier, two indoor bests, four winners and 18 Mountain Pacific Championships qualifiers at the Husky Indoor Preview in Washington's Dempsey Indoor.

Junior Magdalena Sandoval led all collegiate athletes in the 3,000-meter race after a 12-second personal best of

9 minutes, 33 seconds. It was the team's only NCAA provisional mark as Sandoval finished third.

Senior Amanda Brown opened her final season with two wins in the long jump and triple jump. Brown was marked at 18 feet, 8 1/4 inches in the long jump and marked a personal best of 39-9 3/4 in the triple jump.

The Oregon men's unit had equal success, accounting for 17 Mountain Pacific Championships marks, six Pac-10 marks and five wins.

Junior transfer Leon Watson won both the long jump (24-1 1/2) and the triple jump (50-8). Sophomore Ryan Flaherty won the 800-meter run

(1:52.09) and senior James March threw 54-6 to win the shot put.

In the field, Oregon's high-jump trio of sophomores — Jeff Lindsey (second, 6-10 3/4), Teddy Davis (fifth, 6-8 3/4) and freshman Bobby Owen (sixth, 6-8 3/4) — earned Pac-10 invites.

Oregon's largest recruit of the off-season, freshman Tommy Skipper, cleared 16-10 3/4 in the pole vault. Skipper finished third overall and second among collegiates behind returning NCAA indoor champ Brad Walker of Washington and two-time World Championships qualifier Piotr Buciariski.

— Jesse Thomas

PAC-10

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returns to form, she will make a big impact this year."

Freshman Monica Hoz de Vila also claimed the Fight III Consolation title after defeating Chris Martinez of Washington State by default.

Other Pac-10 teams are starting to take notice of a healthy Oregon squad after a disappointing last season that was decimated by injuries.

"(They have) a lot of depth with the new players (Schyllander) has added

this year," Washington head coach Patty McCain said. "With the experience and talent of Panova and Courtney Nagle, they will be a force to be reckoned with."

Oregon will begin playing dual matches Jan. 24, when it plays host to Sacramento State.

Transfer makes impact

Markus Schiller transferred from Auburn and arrived on campus just two weeks ago. In his first tournament as a Duck, he has already made a strong impression on the coaching staff after winning the Corvallis John

and Phil's Tournament at the Timber Hills Racket Club.

Schiller defeated Oren Montevassel from Bell Canyon, Calif., in straight sets, 6-3 and 6-4, to claim the championship.

"I am very pleased with Markus," head coach Chris Russell said. "It was really a big-time win. He is really going to help us out."

The Oregon men will start dual matches on Jan. 25 as they host Santa Clara at the Student Tennis Center.

Alex Tam is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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



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