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Oregon wrestlers find defeat in first, second home matches

The Ducks return home with some impressive individual performances but can't piece it all together

By Scott Archer
 Freelance Reporter

It took No. 21 Cal State-Bakersfield 50 seconds to take charge in its wrestling match against the Ducks on Sunday in a 27-12 win.

DUCK WRESTLING

In the first match of the night, No. 13 Brian Cobb pinned No. 19 Joey Bracamonte in the first 50 seconds, setting a tone that remained throughout the evening.

"If you go out unemotional, if you

go out flat-footed, you don't allow yourself to go out in a position to compete," Oregon head coach Chuck Kearney said.

A few bright spots included Jason Harless' pin of Roadrunner Jack Anaya in the first period in the 133-pound weight class.

Oregon first didn't get on the board until Dustin Fisher took a decision over Scott O'Rear in the 184-pound weight class. Fisher used a strong second-round performance to take a 9-2 lead before winning 9-3. The win was Fisher's third of the year, and it came at the right time.

"This was the first time my mom had seen me wrestle in college," Fisher said. "It was really good (to win in front of her)."

The only other winner for the Ducks Sunday was Cody Parker, who beat Eric Parker, 8-3, in a decision.

Fresno State was Oregon's first home-match opponent, and welcomed the Ducks back with 24-10 victory in front of a good-sized wrestling crowd Friday.

"Fresno State is a tough match-up for us," Kearney said. "We were out-matched a little bit tonight. We didn't do the job."

The Bulldogs scored the first points of the match, but the Ducks followed with a 14-4 win by senior Jason Harless.

Fresno State then rattled off three straight wins in the 141-weight class, 149-weight class and 157-weight class.

Oregon junior Luke Larwin beat Shawn Sheets in a low-scoring match. Neither wrestler had an edge after the first round. After the second round, Larwin held onto a 1-0 lead, while Sheets scored in the third round to force overtime.

Turn to **WRESTLING**, page 9A

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NATIVES

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"It was nice to win in front of my family and friends," Buckner said. "Being able to come home and (win) on the road makes us feel good."

Denson saved her contribution

toward Saturday's win until the second half, when she scored 10 points and helped the Sun Devils overcome an eight-point deficit in the game's final four minutes.

The 6-foot-1 sophomore was a 2002 graduate of Crater High School in Central Point, Ore. She was named

Gatorade Player of the Year as a senior.

"I was kind of feeling it after I hit my first (shot)," Denson said. "We all hit big shots at key times."

Contact the sports reporter at jonroetman@dailyemerald.com.

MEN

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Oregon's 13. The Wildcats also had 16 second-chance points; the Ducks had none.

"When you break down against a team like Arizona, they make you pay," Kent said. "I didn't think we played particularly well."

Oregon played better in the second half but could never get close enough to threaten Arizona. The Wildcats put on a transition-offense seminar with high-flying acrobatics and several dunks.

In one stretch, Arizona dunked the ball on Oregon four of five times down the floor. Forward Hassan Adams, the recipient of a few alley-oops, led Arizona with 20 points on 9

of 14 shooting from the floor.

Senior Luke Jackson found his touch late in the second half, but too little time was left for Oregon to make a significant run. At one point, Oregon had cut the lead to 14 points after Jackson scored five in two possessions.

Jackson led Oregon with 20 points and six rebounds, but he was credited with eight turnovers.

Kent said Jackson has even more responsibility now with the loss of freshman Aaron Brooks.

"This was a ball game where we missed our point guard," Kent said. "We needed guard play; I knew that coming into this building. They really exploited us early on in terms of creating pressure and breaking down people."

Arizona finished the game with nine

unanswered points and gave Oregon its worst loss of the season. Oregon (9-5, 4-3) is now tied for fourth in the conference with California.

Oregon will face the Bears on Thursday night at McArthur Court.

The Ducks finished the game shooting 45.5 percent from the field compared to Arizona's 48.1 percent. Yet, the Wildcats attempted 22 more shots than the Ducks.

Oregon missed its three-point shooting that has helped it to win games all season. The Ducks made only five three-pointers and shot 26.3 percent from beyond the arc. Senior James Davis was 1 for 7 on three-point shots.

Oregon shot a perfect 11 for 11 from the free-throw line but was out-rebounded, 42-30, by the Wildcats.

Platt and forward Ian Crosswhite finished with 10 and 11 points, respectively.

For Arizona, center Channing Frye had 18 points and forward Andre Iguodala finished with 14.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

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