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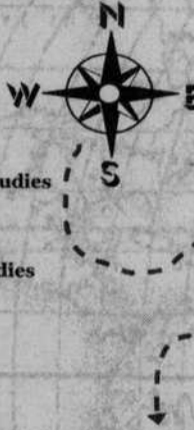
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Ducks sit ninth at midpoint of Pac-10 championships

Five Oregon wrestlers must win their two matches on Monday to qualify for the 2004 NCAA tournament

By Scott Archer
 Freelance Reporter

It's halfway through the 2004 Pac-10 Conference wrestling tournament, and at this point the tournament is a mirror to how the regular season went for the Ducks.

DUCK WRESTLING

At the end of the first day of the two-day tournament, Oregon is ninth in team standings, ahead of the only Pac-10 team it beat this year, Portland State.

Leading the way is Boise State, followed closely by Stanford and host Arizona State.

Freshman Joey Lucas entered the tournament in the 125-pound class against Portland State's Zac Enoch. Lucas lost his match and proceeded to the consolation bracket where he defeated Eric Stevenson of Oregon State before losing to Vic Moreno of Cal Poly.

Jason Harless got off to a good start in the 133-pound bracket, defeating

Chris Sanchez of Cal-State Fullerton. In the next round Harless lost to Derek Moore of UC-Davis. Harless moved into the consolation bracket where he faced Tim Norman of Oregon State, advancing into session three against Paul Gross of Stanford.

If Harless wins the match today, the worst he could place would be fourth in his weight class. If he loses to Gross, he must win the next match to place fifth. To finish third and hope for a chance to qualify for the NCAA tournament Harless will need to win his last two matches today.

Johnny Lugo lost in his first match of the 141-pound class against No. 1 seeded Brad Metzler of Stanford. In the next round Lugo lost to Jeremy Mendoza.

The same happened for freshman Cyle Hartzellm who lost his first two matches, ending his season.

No. 4 seeded Joey Bracamonte lost in his first match to five-seed Jeremiah Jarvis of UC-Davis in the 157-pound class.

Bracamonte won his next two matches to put him against No. 2 seed Ben Charrington of Boise State. Bracamonte needs to win his last two matches to place third in the weight class and to earn an opportunity to go to the NCAA tournament.

No. 3 seed Luke Larwin won his first

match against Russell Brunson of Boise State, but lost the second on the day. Larwin is in the same position as Harless and Bracamonte, needing two wins to place third.

174-pound junior Chet McBee rebounded from a first match loss to win against Jon Carlisle of Boise State. Much like his teammates, two wins would earn McBee a third place finish.

184-pounder Dustin Fisher lost his first two matches, ending his season. Fisher opened the tournament against No. 1 seed Dan Pitsch of Oregon State.

Senior Jake Leair lost his opening match to K.C. Walsh of Boise State; however, the results of his next match against Stanford's Larry Ozowara were not posted.

And in the heavyweight division Oregon wrestled little-used Chris Dearman. Dearman lost his opening match, but rallied to win his next two matches placing him, like his teammates, two wins away from the all-important third place finish.

Oregon will continue wrestling today and each Duck wrestler must win their next two matches to be considered for an NCAA tournament invitation.

Scott Archer is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

BATTERED

continued from page 7

scored 29 points, hitting on four three-pointers, for his third double-double of the season.

"I've just been trying to be aggressive, attack the basket and open up things for my teammates," Childress said.

The Ducks had problems offensively early on and those issues extended

throughout the game. Oregon missed its first 10 shots and didn't score until Aaron Brooks made a layup with 13:31 to play in the first half.

Stanford, meanwhile, was not much better, missing seven straight field goals before Matt Lottich hit a three-pointer four minutes into the game.

That's when the Cardinal (25-0 overall, 16-0 Pac-10) pushed ahead in a big way. After an offensive barrage, it led

13-0 three minutes later.

"I really felt like the game got away from us early on," Oregon head coach Ernie Kent said. "They gave us some great looks early on and we couldn't knock down shots."

Oregon (12-11, 7-9) eventually pulled out of its shooting woes, coming to within one, 13-12, with 11 minutes to play.

That mattered little, though, as the Cardinal outscored the Ducks 28-12 entering the break.

"We're not going to beat anybody shooting the ball that poorly," Kent said, alluding to Oregon's 29 percent shooting from the field in the first half. "We needed easy baskets because they are such a great transition team. Defensively, when we break down, it's hard to run while they're scoring baskets."

The second half was just as unkind to the Ducks. Oregon never got closer than 15 points en route to its 18th straight loss at Maples Pavilion.

"They are a great basketball team," Kent said. "They deserve everything they get."

Jackson led Oregon with 18 points, 11 coming in the second half. Aaron Brooks scored a career-high 17 — passing his previous best of 16 against California on Thursday. For the second straight game, he hit four three-pointers.

No other Ducks scored in double-digits.

The win is Stanford's 25th straight and pushes the Cardinal a game closer to a perfect regular season record.

The Ducks, meanwhile, lost their fourth straight game, the first time that's happened since the 2000-01 season. That year was also the last time Oregon missed the postseason, something this year's team is coming dangerously close to doing.

"We're going to come out hard and play, regardless, for our seniors," Brooks said of the team's final two games of the season. "We've just got to come out and play no matter what."

As the Ducks were set to leave the Bay Area, construction crews began tearing down Maples Pavilion. The arena is set to undergo a \$30 million renovation.

Piece by piece, the building will be torn down.

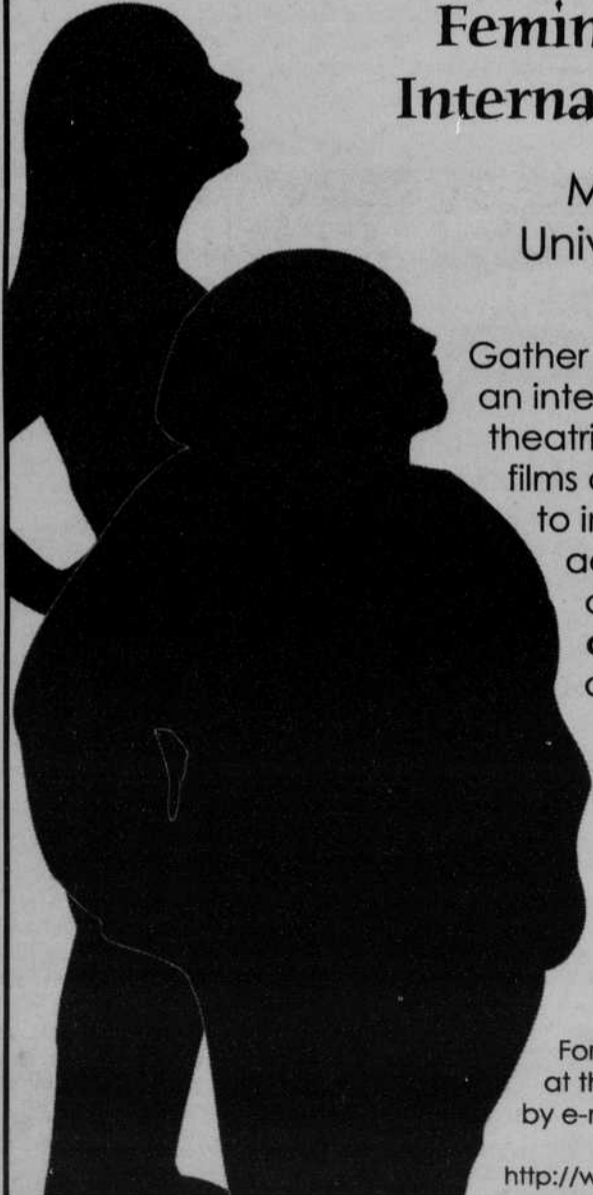
Kind of like Oregon's season.

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

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