

## ■ In my opinion



BRIAN SMITH  
LEFTY SPECIALIST

## Battle plans for Pit Crew shirt prove unnecessary

I was prepared for the worst on Sunday. It was something that I had been dreading yet looking forward to for more than a week.

I was ready to experience some emotional highs and ethical lows.

I had been working on my elbowing technique for the past week, crafting the most efficient move possible.

Why, you ask?

For those of you who don't know, Sunday was Pit Crew Shirt Distribution Day, and I was ready.

You see, I'd done it before. I had been there, and I knew what to expect.

So, I took the memories from my previous experience and prepared accordingly.

I had rations (a bottle of water and a Powerbar).

I had on comfortable shoes (Adidas).

I had reading material ("Arcadia" by Tom Stoppard).

I had patience (debatable).

And lastly, I had a ticket and a student ID (essential).

I was ready.

The game on Sunday was at 3:30 p.m. and experience dictated that I get to Mac Court a minimum of three hours early. I know there are dedicated students who make a camping trip out of waiting for these shirts, and I applaud them, but I couldn't do it.

With a couple of reliable sources saying that the line was already starting down 15th Avenue, I got there at 12:45 p.m., expecting the worst.

However, when I arrived, there was no line. People were already walking back with shirts.

What?

Turns out the method was changed to be the first 800 or so students who showed up got a shirt instead of however many kids could absolutely cram into the student section 90 minutes before the game.

It took ten minutes to fill out the contract, get in and get out with a shirt.

I felt numb. What had I missed?

I missed catching a football in the streets.

I missed the fact that I got more studying done in line than on most normal trips to the library.

I missed the small tent city and the rotating bathroom breaks.

I missed the pounding on the doors and the general animosity toward the security guard keeping them closed.

I missed the elation when that very same guard made a move for the door.

I missed the crush of trying to get in, wondering if the girl in front of me thought we were dating, or furthermore, wondering if I should purchase a matching ring set for the guy behind me.

I missed the uncontrollable urge to yell, "Moo." (Explanation: Being crushed in a

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## ■ Club Sports



ERIK R. BISHOFF | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon goalie Matt Nuernberg blocks a shot from College of the Canyons' forward in the Ducks' 3-3 tie with the Cougars on Friday night. Nuernberg earned his first shutout of the season Saturday night in the Ducks' 3-0 win over the Santa Clarita, Calif., community college.

## Ducks *slide* by Cougars

Down by a goal with 12 seconds left in the third period Friday, Oregon captain Ted Martin scored, earning the Ducks a tie

BY BEAU EASTES  
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

Playing without team captain Mike Tornabene and starting defenseman Mike Boggs, the Club Hockey team scraped together a win and a tie this weekend in a series the Ducks admit they may have taken a bit too easily.

"We played horrible," senior forward and club coordinator Justin Keeland said of the Ducks' 3-3 home tie Friday night against the College of the Canyons. "We took them a little lightly ... and deserved to lose."

The Ducks (5-1-0, Pacific-8) will finish the regular season without Tornabene as he is attending an ambassadorship program in Russia. Roley, one of the team's most experienced defensemen, sat out the non-league game with an unspecified injury.

The Ducks rebounded Saturday night against the community college from Santa Clarita, Calif., by shutting the Cougars out 3-0 in the second game of the series.

"We let Friday get away from us," Keeland said, noting that the Ducks brought a greater sense of urgency to the ice following the tie.

Junior forward Jeff Knebel opened the game up with a goal at the 2:47 mark of the first period, and Oregon never looked back. Knebel added another goal in the second, and junior forward Justin Savich also scored, sealing the Duck win.

"Communication was really good," said freshman goalie Matt Nuernberg. "After Friday's game, we knew they were legit."

"The defense helped out. They picked out guys in the front."

Nuernberg blocked all 40 shots from the Cougars in his first shutout of the season.

According to Keeland, it was Nuernberg's play that kept the Ducks in the game in their sloppy Friday night performance.

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## ■ Duck wrestling

## Webster gives 'outstanding' performance

Ducks claim three titles, four consolation titles and monopolize Most Outstanding Wrestler nominations at the Cowboy Open

BY SCOTT J. ADAMS  
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

The Oregon wrestling team avenged its early-season loss with a strong outing at the 32nd annual Cowboy Open on Sunday in Laramie, Wyo. The Ducks won three different weight class titles at the 18-team tournament and claimed consolation titles in four other weight classes.

Standout juniors Shane Webster and Joey Bracamonte aided Oregon, winning the 174 and 165-pound weight classes, respectively. For his unprecedented performance, Webster was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler. Finishing behind Barker in votes were Bracamonte and Scott Barker, giving Oregon a top-three sweep of the MOW voting. Bracamonte earned the tournament's award for

most falls in the least amount of time. The addition of Webster and Bracamonte to Oregon's starting roster for the tournament was an improvement from Friday's 30-16 loss to the Cowboys — neither wrestled in the duel because they could not make weight. Barker, a transfer senior from St. Louis, rounded out the first-place finishers for Oregon by taking home the 197-pound title.

Webster climbed his way to the top of his weight class with little difficulty. In each of his four matches, Webster tallied major defeats of 19-4 (first round), 21-10 (quarterfinals), 12-4 (semifinals) and 15-4 (finals). Webster handily defeated Travis Koppenhafer of Adams State for the title.

Bracamonte followed a similar path to first

place as he raked in four technical fall decisions in five matches. His closest margin of victory was a 5-3 decision over Travis Peak of Chadron State.

Following a forfeit victory in the first round, Barker swept the competition in flawless form by recording three technical falls in his final matches. Barker's quickest victory came in the quarterfinals against D.C. Hazen of Colorado School of Mines. Hazen's technical fall against Barker came in the second minute of the match.

Consolation champions for Oregon included juniors Skyler Woods (141), Martin Mitchell (131), Chet McBee (184) and sophomore Chris Dearmon (Hwt.). All three placed third in their weight classes and caught the eye of their head coach Chuck Kearney.

"I am proud of our third-place finishers," Kearney said. "They lost matches they were capable of winning, but responded in a big way."

As for his team's performance in the

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