

■ Duck wrestling

UO hosts Boise State in pivotal Pac-10 dual

Oregon will need its younger wrestlers to pull their weight against a trying Broncos roster

BY SCOTT J. ADAMS
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

The Oregon wrestling team has a chance to win its third consecutive dual Friday when it wrestles Pacific-10 Conference foe Boise State at McArthur Court at 7 p.m. The Ducks are riding a modest two-dual winning streak after taking both matches last Friday against South Dakota State and Southern Oregon at the Oregon Wrestling Classic.

The Broncos (3-4) are loaded with nationally ranked wrestlers, making them a daunting opponent for Oregon, which was shut out in last year's dual against Boise State 42-0. The Ducks have an all-time lead over Boise State (11-10-2) but the Broncos have walked away the victor in the past six meetings. For both programs, the match's most important factor is its conference implications. Oregon junior Martin Mitchell recognizes the significance of Friday's dual and how helpful a win would be for the Ducks.

"We have struggled at times this season," Mitchell said. "Boise State is a lot like us and a win would be just as huge for us as it would be for them. This is a chance for us to get back on track."

Sixth-ranked Andrew Hochstrasser leads the Broncos into Friday's match sitting at 14-4 this season while wrestling in the 125-pound weight class. Other ranked wrestlers in Boise State's roster include Scott Jorgensen (No. 17 at 133), Ben Cherrington (No. 8, 149) and Eric Smith (No. 16, Hwt.).

Mitchell (133) finds himself pitted against Jorgensen in what he feels is one of his biggest bouts this season.

"I'm very excited for this one," Mitchell said. "(Jorgensen) is ranked pretty high but

WRESTLING, page 14

■ Men's basketball



ERIK R. BISHOFF | PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman Bryce Taylor will play in his first Pac-10 road game tonight against the Huskies at Bank of America Arena.

Ducks head north to Seattle for first Pac-10 road game

Aaron Brooks and Oregon will face off against Nate Robinson and Washington

BY JON ROETMAN
SENIOR SPORTS REPORTER

The Oregon men's basketball team ventures on its first Pacific-10 Conference road trip tonight as it faces No. 14 Washington at 7 p.m. in Bank of America Arena.

Coming off a 73-64 win against Oregon State, the Ducks (10-2 overall, 2-1 Pac-10) will face a Husky squad loaded with offensive talent. Washington (13-2, 3-1) is averaging 89 points per game and has reached the 100-point mark on three occasions. With six players averaging double figures in

scoring, Washington is sure to give Oregon everything it can handle defensively.

"It's going to be an offensive game," Oregon forward Maarty Leunen said. "But it will come down to defense and who gets the stops at the end. It will come down to desire."

Junior point guard Nate Robinson is the spark plug in Washington's offensive engine. Generously listed at 5-foot-9, the Seattle native is averaging 17.3 points per game and is shooting 44 percent from three-point range.

A first-team all-conference

selection last season, Robinson scored 20 points during last year's 83-74 win against the Ducks in Seattle, including an end of the game, insult-to-injury dunk that is still in the minds of Oregon's returning players and coaches.

In charge of shutting down Robinson is Oregon's sophomore point guard Aaron Brooks, who is making a homecoming of his own. The Seattle native missed last season's game in Bank of America Arena with a hand injury and will need to have a big game if the Ducks are going to stay competitive.

"Nate is a good player," Brooks said. "He's going to get

MEN, page 14

■ Duck tennis

Panova vies for another singles title this week

Daria Panova hopes to win her fourth career singles title at the Pac-10 Indoor Championships

BY ALEX TAM
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

Daria Panova has been to the annual Pacific-10 Conference Indoor Championships before and knows what to expect this weekend.

The senior will attempt to win her fourth Pac-10 singles title at the three-day tournament held at the Lloyd Nordstrom Tennis Center in Seattle beginning Friday.

Panova, who has won three of the past four Pac-10 singles titles, said the desire to win is crucial to capturing this weekend's tournament.

"It's just the will," she said. "I just wanted to win. I think I wanted it more because the Pac-10 is the best conference in tennis."

Panova, finishing up her career at Oregon, added that she has bigger goals in mind for herself, one of which includes being victorious at the only tournament she's never won — the NCAA Championships that starts in late May.

"I used to look at Pac-10s as, 'OK, I need to show that I can play,'" Panova said. "But right now it's more like preparation for the season."

Injuries have taken their toll on the Ducks' leader the past four seasons. At last season's Pac-10 Indoors, Panova won the singles title despite battling injuries to her upper back and left index finger. Not even Oregon head coach Nils Schyllander knew whether she was going to compete at the time.

But right now, Panova said she feels the best she has in a long time.

"I'm the healthiest I've ever been," she said. "Every time I've won something (though), I was hurting."

Schyllander said he believes his star player should be the favorite this weekend.

"She doesn't have to prove anything,"

TENNIS, page 14

■ Women's basketball

Kraayeveld, Oregon prepare for Washington

After last week's decisive victory over OSU, the Ducks take on the Huskies tonight at Mac Court

BY STEPHEN MILLER
SPORTS REPORTER

After playing on the road during the past two weeks, the Oregon women's basketball team is eager to return to McArthur Court. The only real challenge for the Ducks will be matching their impressive performance in last week's Civil War.

With the Washington schools paying a visit this week, Oregon (10-4 overall, 3-2 Pacific-10 Conference) has a chance to sweep all three Northwest opponents for the first time since the 1999-2000 season.

"Certainly, we need to take care of business at home," said Oregon head coach Bev Smith, whose team is 5-1 at Mac Court this season. "We just need to build on the Oregon State victory."

The Ducks got back to their winning ways with a strong 82-point outing against the Beavers. Smith said she still saw good and bad with her team's play in Corvallis.

"We were outrebounded but we shot the ball very well," Smith said. Oregon shot 55 percent but Oregon State had four more rebounds (34). Fortunately for Oregon, Washington owns the worst rebounding defense in the conference.

Smith said this week's opponents aren't similar to one another and adapting to each style will be crucial for her team, but her players still need to remember the basics.

"Washington and Washington State certainly bring different kinds of challenges for us," Smith said.

"It's important that we focus on our principles and concepts, both offensively and defensively, and be ready to make some adjustments."

Washington (6-10, 2-4) comes in to face Oregon tonight lugging a three-game losing streak on its back. Oregon holds a 34-33 all-time advantage in the series with the Huskies, who have won the last four contests against the Ducks, including a 95-50 stomping last year in Seattle.

"We got a pretty good beating up there so we just have to come and play like we have been playing in the last couple games," said Oregon forward Cathrine Kraayeveld, the team's leader in points, rebounds and blocked shots.

"I think it's really important that our players remember that (game)," Smith said. "We had a very poor game up there in all aspects and I'm glad it's in the back of our players' minds. That was an

aberration of our team and we've come a long way since then."

This season, the Huskies have relied on the equal distribution of scoring responsibilities instead of using concentrated sources of firepower. Six players average at least seven points per game but no player averages in double digits.

"I see a very dangerous team because they've been in all of the games they've played," Smith said. "They are nine players deep and they are all very capable of scoring."

Junior guard Kayla Burt contributes a team-high 9.1 points per game for Washington — the only team in the Pac-10 without a senior on its roster.

"They are young and don't have any real go-to players right now, but I think it's a team that we have to pay attention to," Smith said.

Kraayeveld is anticipating the

WOMEN, page 14



NICOLE BARKER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Kirkland, Wash., native Cathrine Kraayeveld leads Oregon into this week's homestand against the Washington schools. Kraayeveld is the team leader in scoring, rebounds and blocked shots.