

■ Duck wrestling

Ducks wrap up dual season with PSU tonight in Salem

BY SCOTT J. ADAMS
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

Oregon closes its Pacific-10 Conference dual schedule today in Salem as it faces Portland State, the final opponent the Ducks will wrestle this season as a team. Should the Ducks (5-10 overall, 2-6 Pac-10) prove successful, they could send seven seeded wrestlers to the Pac-10 Championships in San Luis Obispo, Calif., in less than two weeks.

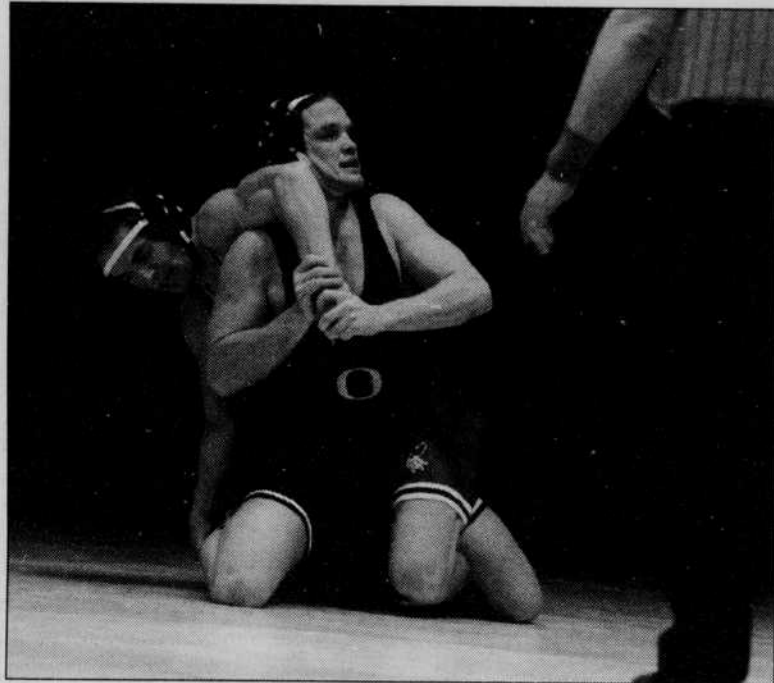
Morale is high for Oregon wrestlers, such as junior Joey Bracamonte, who see this dual as a final tuneup for the postseason.

"There's no room for mistakes now," Bracamonte said. "It's the end of the season and we've practiced hard for this. We should have no let-downs."

With his win last week over Matt Ellis of Oregon State, Bracamonte should wrestle as the No. 1 seed for the championships in the 165-pound weight division. His teammate, Scott Barker (197), should also find himself with a top seed heading to California. The senior from St. Louis is 28-5 on the season and leads the Ducks in pins, already holding the Oregon record for most pins in a season.

After wrestling nearly all of the regular season in the 174-pound class, junior Shane Webster will be wrestling at 184 pounds for Wednesday's dual and for the championships. Webster was No. 1 in the conference at 174 pounds this season and will likely wrestle at San Luis Obispo as a No. 2 or No. 3 seed. Skyler Woods (141), Chet McBee (174) and Cody Parker (Hwt.) all aim to join the field as No. 5 seeds.

Portland State heads into today's dual after a busy weekend that pitted it against three different teams in as many days. The three-dual set started on Friday, when the Vikings hosted and defeated Simon Fraser by a score



ERIK R. BISHOFF | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon's Skyler Woods grabs Arizona State's Curtis Ray in the 141-pounder's win earlier this season. The Ducks will take on Portland State today in their final Pac-10 dual of the season.

of 27-15. Momentum couldn't carry Portland State past Boise State the following day, as the Broncos stormed into the Stott Center in Portland and only surrendered one loss to the Vikings, which came by way of a forfeit in the 125-pound weight class. Things got worse for Portland State on Sunday when it traveled to Tempe, Ariz., to grapple with No. 20 Arizona State. Like Boise State, the Sun Devils lost just one match en route to a 46-4 win. Eddie Dahlen (149) recorded Portland State's sole win, a 16-8 major decision over Chris Frieje.

Oregon endured a similarly heartbreaking weekend after Oregon State stole a 21-18 win at McArthur Court on

Sunday. Oregon has gone into a tail-spin as of late, losing five of its past six duals. Prior to this late-season slide, the Ducks were on the rebound and riding a four-dual winning streak.

With a Pac-10 team title out of reach, both Oregon and Portland State will be looking to solidify different individual seedings for the championships. The biggest question posed this week is whether Lucas Hambleton (133) of Portland State will wrestle Oregon's Martin Mitchell. Should the two meet, Mitchell will have a chance to nab Hambleton's No. 4 seed. Mitchell is currently No. 6 in the conference.

The Vikings and Ducks take the mat at 7 p.m. at the State Fairgrounds in Salem.

Ice climbing: Mount Hood among favorite local spots

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University graduate student Sean Bemis said. "So, for most people it would be wise to become confident handling ropes (and) climbing local rock crags before climbing any ice."

Anyone willing to learn and practice ice climbing has the ability to do well. It isn't reserved for the abnormally large or small individual, but accessible for many body types.

"One nice thing about ice climbing is that size doesn't matter. I've climbed with a couple big, burly guys that weighed 250 pounds without any problem," Bemis said. "All it physically requires is moderate upper-body strength — particularly in the forearms — and an ability to function efficiently in the cold weather."

The one drawback to the sport is that most decent ice climbing comes only at the end of a lengthy drive. In Oregon, most ice climbers head to Mount Hood or Dillard Glacier in the Three Sisters Wilderness area, where climbers are lowered into crevasses to practice.

Those who are willing to drive farther — to places like Banff,

Alberta, Telluride, Colo., and Icicle Creek, Wash., — will be pleased with the quality of their climbing. Banff in particular seems popular with local ice climbers; Strong said it is a good place for both beginners and experienced climbers to have a good time.

Those interested in ice climbing should be aware the sport doesn't come cheap. On top of warm insulating clothing, climbers need a helmet and harness, a set of ice tools, crampons (metal devices with pointed cleats), carabineers, ice screws, anchors and a pair of stiff boots.

"You can easily spend upward of \$800 to \$1000 to get started and have some good equipment," Strong said.

For those who love it, the cost is worth the dent to the banking account.

"There's a great mix of companionship and individuality that comes on any major ice climb," Bemis said. "You and your climbing partner have to have a lot of trust in each other, but when you're climbing, it's you and the ice, with one clear immediate goal. The focus it helps you find is amazing."

Jones: Duck fans will move on without their 'fun-loving giant'

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you made some choices that might not have benefited you or the team. But I hope you can finish your degree and continue on in the game of basketball, because the talent is there for you.

But now that you've been

dismissed from the team, students and other fans have lost their fun-loving giant.

And the next time I see you at a local watering hole, the next one is on me.

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