

golf

Duck golfer Tuttle looks forward to NCAAs, change in lifestyle

By MIKE BAER
Of the Emerald

For Oregon golfer Scott Tuttle, there will only be one day of rest between two of the biggest events of his life, a pace the senior from Danville, California, is now familiar with.

Working behind the bar at Duffy's where he can be found five nights a week, Tuttle has been forced to divide his time between work, school, golf and his fiancée. Although the golf team travels to many glamorous tournaments, members are often forced to take incompletes, mail in papers and take their books on the road with them.

"The biggest help is that the faculty is really cooperative and understanding and help arrange assignments early."

Before turning his attention solely to golf, Tuttle was more sought after on the collegiate level for his basketball talents, but he felt his chances for a successful future lay in golf. Oregon golf coach Jim Ferguson, who earlier predicted Tuttle was ready for a good year, is pleased with the progress the senior has made in his years in Eugene. Ferguson believes Tuttle is more dedicated than ever now, and in better control of his emotions, something that is very important to all golfers.

"Scott seldom lets bad shots turn to mad shots. He has all the qualities I look for and I think he can shoot the scores it takes to play professionally."

The coach has reason to be pleased with Tuttle, who along with teammate Brent Murray, has just recently been named to the All-Pac 8 first team. The two of them are primarily responsible for

Oregon spending the entire season in the top ten nationally.

Tuttle was Oregon's top finisher in the Western Intercollegiate Tourney, and tied Murray for that honor at the All-American and Sun Devil tournaments. In the Sun Devil tourney, Tuttle had the first round lead following a scorching 7-under-par 65.

In contrast to his coach, Tuttle isn't as pleased with his performance during his first three years on the team.

"There were a lot of distractions, I was not mentally mature. Once I'm out of school I expect a dramatic improvement."

The three-year-lettermen expects to do well at Eugene in the NCAAs because it is a long, difficult course, one that caters to his game.

After the championship here this June, Tuttle plans to practice and play in as many tournaments as he can prior to going to the professional qualifying school, first sectional, where 25 of 200 will advance, and then hopefully on to national qualifying, where the top 25 will earn their cards and become eligible to go on the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) tour. Tuttle hopes for a quick taste of the tour life, journeying to Portland in the next few weeks in an attempt to gain one of the two available spots the Northwest is granted for this year's U.S. Open.

Tuttle has always been consistent, staying around par and counting on one hot round to put him in contention. However, as was the case this year a few times, one bad nine has also often stood between him and a championship.

"My main goal is just to remain constant, mentally ready to play

every round." On his way to All-Pac-8 honors, Tuttle lowered his strokes per round average by two strokes from last year, and has improved his short game to complement his already powerful woods.

Tuttle is optimistic about his chances of qualifying for the professional golf tour, and is gearing everything he does towards that goal. He tries to work on his game at the golf range after every round, good or bad, and he seems to have the right attitude on the course to stand up to the weekly grind the pro tour offers. He is excited about traveling and seeing the country with his wife-to-be, Tracy Paleologos, whom he will wed just two days following his final tournament as a collegian.

A national championship and a wedding within two days of each other are more than most young men can handle, but if Scott Tuttle expects to be in the national spotlight as a golfer, he must be able to handle the pressure. That is, if he makes it through the first two weeks of June.

As Tuttle remarked, "I can't think of a better wedding present than an NCAA trophy."

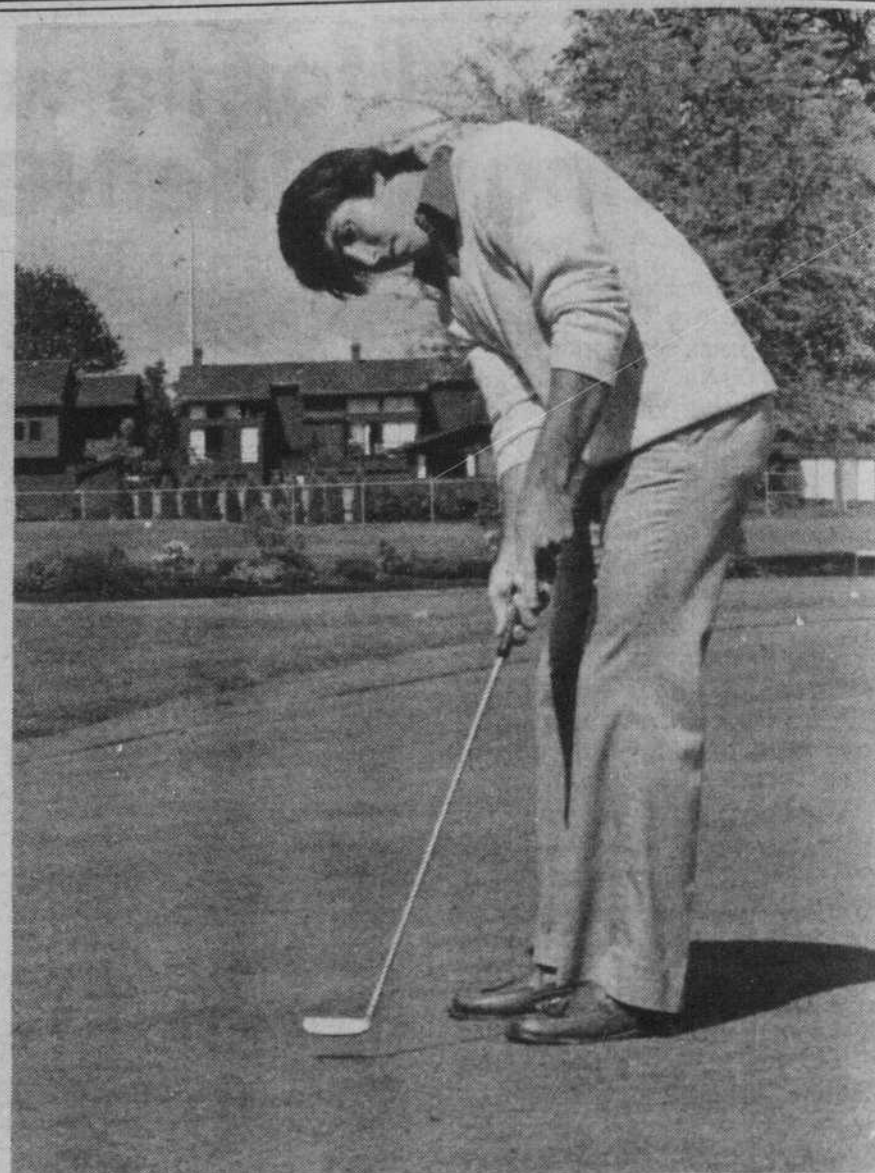


Photo by Mike Baer

All Pac-8 golfer Scott Tuttle knows he will have to be at his best for the NCAA championships at Eugene Country Club, June 7-10.

Weightmen

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"When I started the year I wanted to go 60 feet," Stover said. "Each meet there was better competition. Dave threw 62-1 1/4; he came within 1/4 inch of me. Then I hit 63 at Washington because I knew what (Washington's) Steve Summers was capable of."

"I've had 65 feet on my mind for this year. If I couldn't make it, then 63 or 64. Things started happening. Technically I was better; I got psyched easier."

While he has been around 63 feet all year, Stover threw 64-7 in the Pepsi Invitational against the nation's best amateur shot put-

ters.

Stover also throws the hammer, but doesn't work on it as much as the shot. "I'm concentrating on the shot about 75 percent of the time this year and will go about 50-50 next year. Then I'll concentrate 75 percent on the hammer as a senior."

But he does have some goals for himself in the hammer this year. "I'd like to throw 200 feet this year, but it's a very technical event," he said.

Both Voorhees and Stover are pointing towards the NCAA meet

in June, but for different reasons.

"I have a grudge against foreigners (athletes) in the states and there are some real good throwers. BYU (Brigham Young) and UTEP (Texas-El Paso) recruit heavily in Europe," Voorhees said.

Stover wants to be one of the best amateur shot putters in the country, besides being NCAA champ.

According to Morris, both have the capability and the competitive desire to achieve the goals they've set for themselves.

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