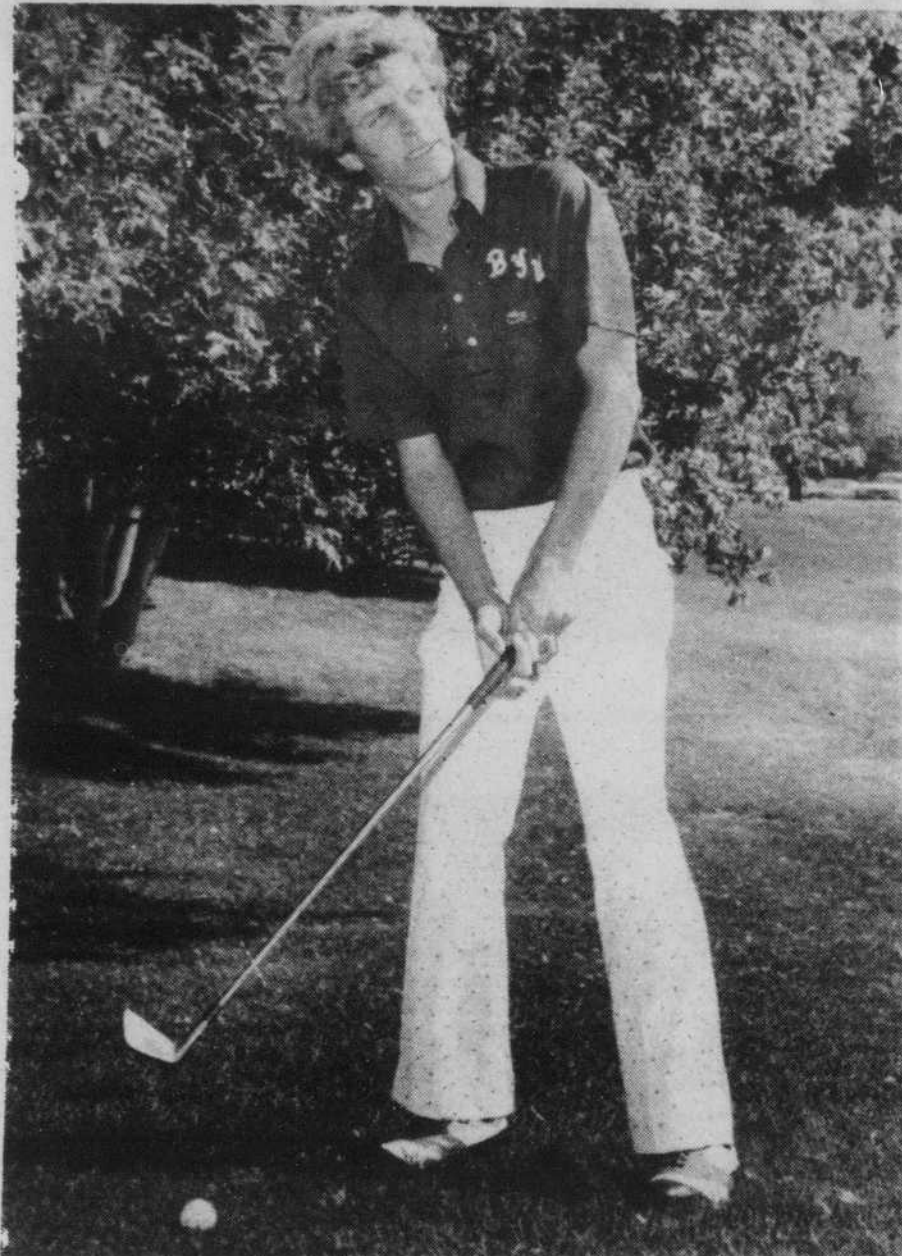




ncaa golf: who will be hot enough to take the title?



BYU's Bob Clampett

Following a weekend of speed and power, Oregon completes its NCAA daily-double next weekend with the golf championships beginning next Thursday at Eugene Country Club.

The host Ducks, playing on their home course, are one of about eight teams that pose a serious threat to favorite Oklahoma State, the king-pin of college golf throughout this year, and the nation's dominate team over the last three years.

Besides host Oregon, highly-rated teams Georgia, Ohio State, Brigham Young, Wake Forest, San Diego State and defending NCAA champion Houston all deserve consideration in challenging impressive Oklahoma State.

The tournament itself will be run differently than the past, with the individual title decided after Friday's third round, and only the top teams back on the course Saturday.

Golf guide written, edited by Mike Baer

Photos courtesy:

Ohio State, Wake Forest, Brigham Young, Georgia, Houston and Oklahoma State.

Cover photo by Mike Baer

Included in the 186 competitors that hope to tame the Eugene lay-out will be 27 teams that qualified from their respective areas, in addition to the nation's top individuals.

Here is a capsule guide to this year's top contenders for the NCAA crown, along with some top individuals that could be a factor next weekend.

OKLAHOMA STATE

How tough are the Cowboys? Just ask Britt Harrison, an Oklahoma State junior. He is faced with being the number three man despite averaging a sub-par 71.9 strokes per round.

Two time all-American Lindy Miller, with a 70.5 average, making this his third consecutive year of below par golf and Danny Edwards, also a member of last

year's All-American squad, lead the Cowboys to Eugene where they hope to add to the OSU golf trophy case — already filled with Big 8 and NCAA hardware.

Awesome is the only word that could describe the track record of the Cowboys throughout this season. They have captured six championships and two second place finishes in the eight tournaments they have competed in this year.

The other two men that will compete in Eugene are Rafael Alarcon and freshman Bob Tway, whose 73.7 average would be enough to make him number one at many other schools.

GEORGIA

Georgia, the Southeastern



Oregon's Brent Murray

Conference Champions, comes to the Northwest with three outstanding individuals, led by two time All-American Chip Beck.

Beck, who finished ahead of Lindy Miller at the All-American Classic in Houston, is a pre-tournament favorite along with Miller. He will team up with high placers in last year's NCAA's, Gus Hollbrook (5th) and senior Joe Walter (10th), to carry the Bulldogs.

Bob Donald and Griff Moody will round out the line-up for Georgia.

OHIO STATE

From out of the midwest comes the fifth-ranked Buckeyes, easy victors in the Big 10 conference. Ohio State is as solid as any team in the nation and is almost a sure bet to improve on its ninth place finish of a year ago.

Big-10 medalist John Cook, a 1977 All-American, is one of the top individuals in the nation and was the medalist on the NCAA team that competed in Japan which included Georgia's Beck.

Marc Balen, the 1977 Big-10 champ, is the second Buckeye that has received All-American honors. Balen was the individual champion in this year's Miami Invitational Tournament, won by Ohio State over 25 other teams. Joining Cook and Balen will be Canadian amateur champion Rod Spittle, three-year-lettermen Ralph Guarasci and another all Big-10 performer, Rick Borg.

BRIGHAM YOUNG

The nation's third-rated golf team according to Golf World Magazine, Brigham Young, is led by amazing freshman Bob Clampett and Walker Cup golfer Mike Brannan.

Clampett, who already has put two individual wins under his belt in the first year of what promises to be an outstanding career, leads the Cougars in their bid to improve on last year's disappointing sixth place finish in the national championship.

Accompanying Clampett to Eugene will be seniors Brannan, 1977 WAC medalist Jamie Edman, Stan Souza and junior Erich Gott.

The Cougars started the year strongly, winning three of the first four tournaments they entered, all of them by comfortable margins.

After a bad finish in the Sun Bowl tournament in El Paso, BYU got back on track, picking up two firsts, a second and two thirds in the year's remaining tourna-

ments. Included were five titles for individual performances.

WAKE FOREST

Always among the top collegiate teams, the Deacons journey to the west coast after capturing the Atlantic Coast Conference Championship for the 11th time in the last 12 years.

Aside from one tournament this spring, Wake Forest has played very solid golf, not relying as much as other schools on one individual.

Gary Hallberg, a medalist three times this year, and Scott Hoch, two time conference champion are the top players, although Gary Pinns and Robert Wrenn also have picked up individual first places this season.

The margins of victory for Wake Forest have been between nine and 35 strokes, so they have not been really pressured this year. They face the disadvantage of not seeing as many of the top teams as BYU or Oregon, so they enter the tournament as an underdog.

OREGON

For the Ducks, last years seventh place NCAA finishers, this is the weekend they have all been waiting for. Always strong in the NCAA's, Oregon has an honest shot at this year's title.

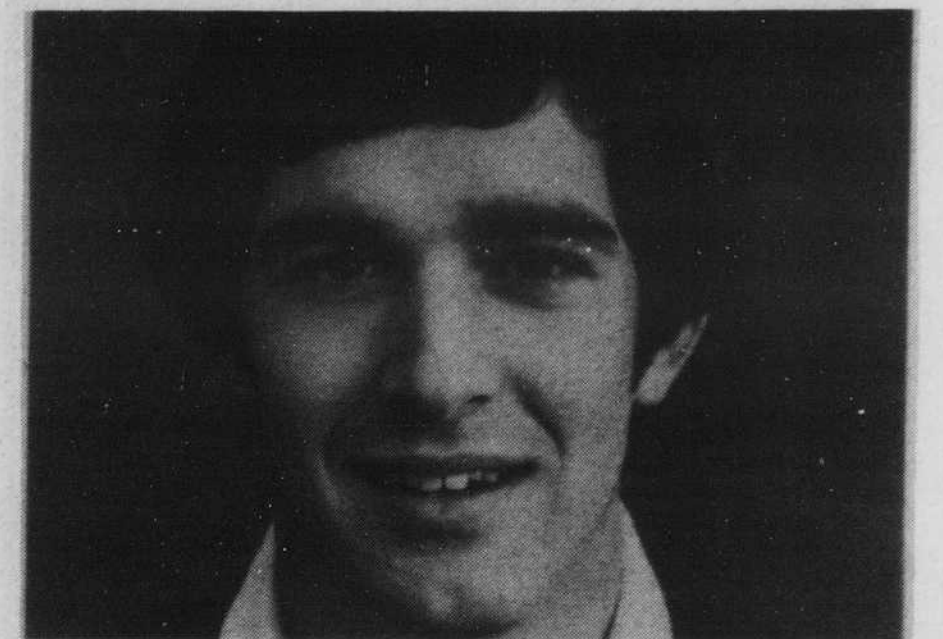
Knowing the Eugene Country Club along is worth a few strokes per-man along. On top of that, the Ducks are now playing good golf.

After a roller coaster season that saw them win the Fresno State Classic and the April Sound Classic, as well as finish a very disappointing third in the Pac 8 championships, Oregon appears to have regrouped, led by the resurgence of Jeff Sanders.

Sanders, still occasionally bothered by a back injury, seems to be back to the form he used to finish third in the 1976 NCAA championship.

The one-two punch of Bret Murray and Scott Tuttle has guided the Ducks throughout this year, and both members of this year's All-Pac-8 team, with the home course knowledge, are good enough to run off with this year's trophy.

Murray has credentials this year that put him among the top golfers in the nation. Included in his accomplishments is a first place in



Georgia's Chip Beck

(Continued on Page 12)

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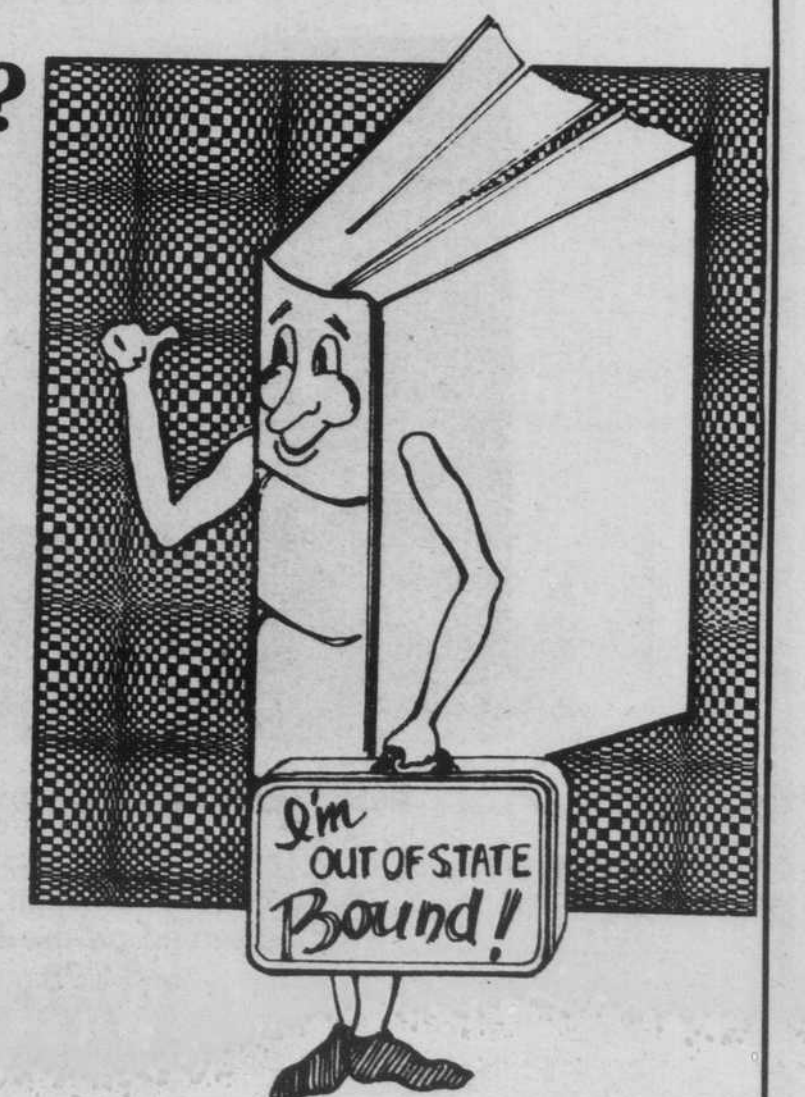
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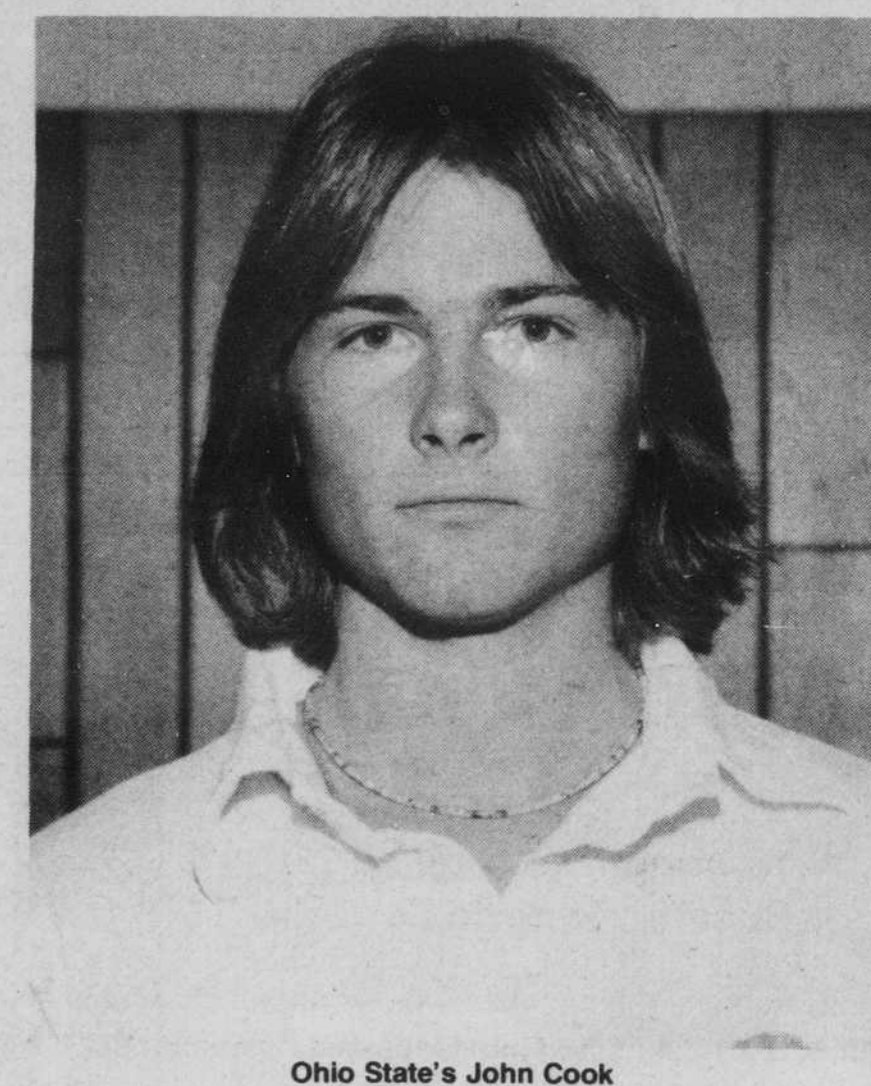
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