



ncaa golf



Houston's John Stark

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the Fresno State Classic that included Brigham Young, USC, San Jose State and Stanford, all of which will be in Eugene for the championships.

On top of that, Murray has proven himself under pressure. In the Pac-8 tournament, he made up five strokes in the last nine holes to become the co-medalist.

Tuttle has to his credit the lowest round this year by any Oregon golfer, 65, as well as high finishes in the Western Intercollegiate, All-American and Sun Devil tournaments. All came against top competitors.

Rounding out the team that hopes to keep the NCAA trophy in Eugene past next weekend will be Jon Hesslewood, whose final round 66 was responsible for Oregon's great finish in Arizona, and sophomore letterman Scott Krieger.

The significance of Hesslewood and the Duck's strong final round in Phoenix is that, as a team, Oregon had the best score for the day. Also competing that day were seven teams that have qualified to come to Eugene. Another point in the Ducks' favor is they have travelled all year and faced the nation's top teams, and for the big one they are home on a course they all play well and are familiar with.

More than even basketball's

Mac Court, the home course advantage puts Oregon as better than a longshot.

Coach Jim Fergusen has said all year it is not the kind of course the Southern schools are used to, and as most golfers will tell you, every course has its own personality shortcuts and danger spots. Eugene is no different.

It will take four solid days of golf to win, but there is no question Oregon has the men to do it.

Besides the top teams, there are individuals with the credentials to become national champions.

Defending NCAA champion Houston brings a fine team to Eugene, as does another top ten

team, San Diego State. John Stark of Houston has been steady all year, as has San Diego State's combo of Lennie Clements and Curt Worley.

From Weber State comes Mike Gove, also rated by many as a strong contender for the trophy.

These men, along with Miller, Edwards, Clampett, Beck, Murray, Cook, Hallberg and Hoch will be the main men to watch. But don't be surprised to see Sanders, Tuttle or any of the other strong contenders at the top, because all have proven they can play like a national champion must.

Gold is a hot and cold sport, and even Jack Nicklaus cools off and misses a cut sometimes.



Wake Forest's Scott Hoch

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