

# Golfers begin Pac-10s

Linksters hope to overcome inconsistent season

By Mark Johnson  
Of the Emerald

All season long, followers of the Oregon golf team have never known if their Ducks will be in the rough or on the green. The only thing predictable about the young Ducks is their unpredictability.

More to the point, the Ducks' problem is inconsistency. And inconsistency is what may ruin their bid for an NCAA tournament berth later this month at Pinehurst, N.C..

Oregon ventures to Corvallis today for the opening round of the Pacific 10 Conference Championships, and the Ducks are in a position that they didn't figure to be in at the beginning of the year — hoping for a big upset and a chance to sneak in the back door of the NCAA's.

The year for the young squad has been marked by peaks and valleys, and inconsistent play has hurt the Ducks in more ways than one.

Oregon was riding high in the fall, taking second at the Oregon State Invitational and a very respectable fifth at the Stanford Fall Invitational.

The momentum carried over into the spring as the Ducks led the Stanford Spring Invitational and the Northern Collegiate in Stockton, two major collegiate tournaments, after the first two rounds.

But the first symptoms of inconsistency became apparent as the Ducks lacked a killer instinct. Both times the young Ducks failed to hold on to the lead in the final rounds of each tournament, letting the titles slip away. The result was sixth place at Stanford and a second place in Stockton.

Although sixth and second place at the two tournaments pushed the Ducks closer to an at-large bid to Pinehurst, the frustration of losing the titles stemmed from wild play in the clutch.

Oregon coach Jim Ferguson complained that the athletes weren't having problems with the courses as a whole, but were getting burned on one or two holes each time.

"I can't predict anything this team does,"

Ferguson said. "All season long we've either shot very well or very poorly. We can't seem to get guys to shoot 75."

The wild play worsened as Oregon had a disastrous month of April. In three major tournaments — the Fresno State-Pepsi Classic, the Western Intercollegiate and the Sun Devil-Thunderbird Collegiate — the Ducks failed to finish in the top ten of any of the tournament.

At the Sun Devil-Thunderbird in Phoenix, Ariz., over this weekend, Ferguson's complaints came back to haunt him. Oregon was well back of the pack after the first round, and was gaining ground fast during the second as they fired even par as a team on the front nine.

But the Ducks found some difficult holes and shot 25-over on the back nine to finish the day in a tie for 15th.

Ferguson had predicted that the Ducks would have to finish in the top four or five at the Phoenix tournament, and the top three in the Pac-10 to be named to the NCAA field. But the poor showing in Phoenix forces the Ducks to play the spoiler at the Pac-10's by trying to upset favorites USC and UCLA, and giving reason for the NCAA selection committee to take a second look.

"If we don't make it to the NCAA," Ferguson said, "it will be sad, because we are a better team this year."

Oregon finished in 27th at the NCAA tourney in 1981, its first appearance since 1978.

**PAC-10 PREVIEW** — Arizona State is the defending champion, while Oregon took third in 1981. Ferguson predicts a tight conference tournament due to short greens on the Corvallis Country Club course, and vying for the title should be USC and UCLA, both ranked high in the nation. Behind the Southern California schools should come Arizona State, Oregon, Arizona and Stanford.

Competing for the individual title will be favorites Mickey Yokoi and Corey Pavin of UCLA, and Jeff Hart of USC.

## Women drop match to Idaho netters, 7-2


The Oregon women's tennis team lost a 7-2 decision to a tough Idaho team Saturday, dropping their record to 5-7 on the season.

Oregon was haunted by three three-set losses in singles play. Only Lindsay Bartlett at No. 1 singles was a winner, taking her match by a 6-3, 7-6 score. Bartlett also teamed up with Susie Hunt for a 3-6, 6-1, 6-1 win in No. 1 doubles, accounting for the Ducks' only two wins of the match.

Down 5-2 after the first doubles competition and already out of the match, Oregon blew a chance to make it close when Joanne Chamberlain and Cathy Rudolph took a 7-6, 6-4, 2-6 loss in No. 2 doubles and Amy Gram-Susie Platt lost 6-4, 6-4 in No. 3 doubles.

The Ducks will now prepare for the Region 9 tournament, to be held in Eugene May 6-9.

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