

Slumping golfers hoping for change of luck at Pac-10 tourney

By Brent Paz
Of the Emerald

A midseason slump has jeopardized the Oregon golf team's chances of advancing to the NCAA Golf Championships in Houston, Texas.

The Ducks have been on the downswing of late as they enter their final NCAA tuneup, the Pac-10 Championship in Tucson, Ariz.

This is make or break time for Oregon, which has been disappointed by poor finishes in its last two tournaments.

In the Pepsi Cola/Fresno State Classic and the Western Intercollegiate, the Ducks needed a top-five finish to have a realistic chance for one of six District 8 NCAA-qualifying spots.

Oregon didn't come close to those projections, as it finished near the bottom of both tournaments. The three-day Pac-10 tournament represents a last chance for the Ducks to live up to their potential.

"We have to win the tournament," admits first-year coach Scott Krieger, discussing the importance of the 72-hole event. "It is possible, but we have to play our best tournament of the year.

The Ducks have been up and down like a yo-

yo this year, or as Krieger calls it, "a little erratic."

An example of that erratic play would be Oregon junior Paul Weinhold.

An honorable-mention all-American a year ago, Weinhold has struggled all year and didn't even make the trip to Tucson.

"He (Weinhold) was not playing well enough to make the trip," says Krieger. "I had to make a substitution, but I feel good about the six we have playing."

Oregon golfer George Daves will be his team's leading candidate for an individual trophy. He has the top stroke average with 73.9 and would like to put the team's failures behind him.

"We have been pretty disappointed, but it's not over yet," says Daves, who has been Oregon's steadiest golfer, along with senior Shell Joyner.

The competition the Ducks will encounter includes the University of Southern California and UCLA. Those two are the favorites for the team title, but Krieger points out one factor that can help the darkhorse Ducks.

"The golf course is short and tricky," says Krieger. "It is windy (40 mph), and that can change things awfully fast."

Oregon

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backbone of Oregon's track program.

During the winter, he hurt the bottom of his foot, then strained his Achilles tendon after that. The lost training time didn't seem to hurt him Saturday, as he just missed making the all-time Oregon steeplechase list.

"I feel like I'm finally getting into shape and starting to do what I always knew I could," said Kuphaldt.

Other Oregon winners included Todd Post in the high jump (6-10 3/4); Jim Hill in the 1,500 (3:42.48); Brian Crouser in the javelin (253-6); Kory Tarpenning in the pole vault (16-10 3/4); Dub Myers in the 800 (1:48.75); Don Ward in the 400 intermediate hurdles (51.48); Jerry Luttrell in the triple jump (a PR 49-10 1/2); and Rick Bergesen in the 5,000 (14:06.61).

Sports shorts

Claudette Groenendaal clocked a sizzling 2:03.28 to finish second in the 800 and **Ranza Clark** was timed in 2:05.15 in the same race to finish fourth to highlight the Oregon entries at the Mt. SAC Relays Sunday. Duck hurdler **Kay Garnett** took part in the 100 hurdles and recorded a 14.08 to finish fifth in her specialty.

Oregon's women's softball team dropped four of six home games this weekend. On Sunday, Oregon defeated Pacific University in a pair of games 4-1 and 1-0. Cindy Garrett pitched a five-hitter in the opener and Duck hurler Tami Caldwell had a one-hitter in the nightcap lifting Oregon's season record to

15-25. Friday, the Ducks lost a pair of NorPac Conference games to University of San Francisco, 1-0 and 3-1. A lack of hitting killed Oregon, as freshman **Sony Schroeder** surrendered only three hits in the opener and **Tami Caldwell** gave up just six in the nightcap. Saturday, Oregon dropped another NorPac twinbill, 2-0 and 1-0, to University of the Pacific. The Ducks managed a mere three hits in two games. Oregon is 3-9 in conference.

Oregon's men's tennis team split two non-counting matches with Seattle-area tennis clubs in Washington this weekend, then lost a 9-0 decision to a strong University of Washington team Saturday.

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