

# Oregon golfer George Daves has high hopes

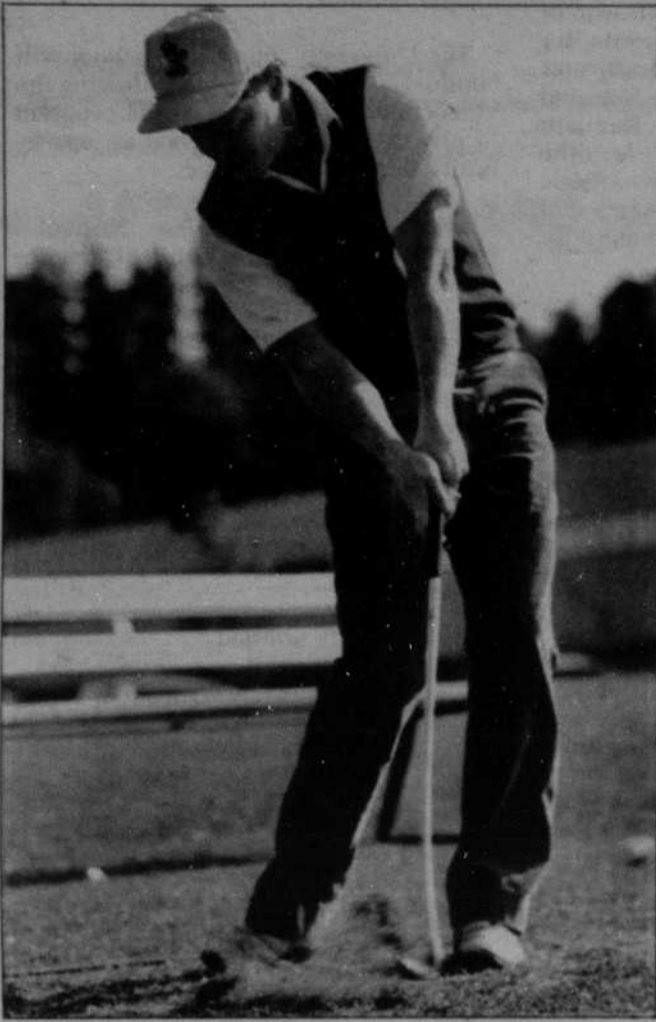


Photo by Michael Wilhelm

Oregon senior golfer George Daves has a chance for All-American honors this season after capturing the runner-up spot in the Pac-10 last year.

By Craig Harris  
Of the Emerald

With only three tournaments left in his college golf career, George Daves is looking to finish with a bang.

If Daves can win one of those tournament crowns, he has a legitimate chance of being on an All-American team, and it would almost assure the Ducks an NCAA tournament invitation. After finishing second in the Pac-10 tourney in 1985, don't think this self-confident senior hasn't given that a thought.

"These next two tournaments are very important for both me and the team to do well," Daves says. "As a team we can lock up a bid, and I can lock myself into an All-American team."

Daves is still a bit leary. After he qualified for the national tourney two of the last three years, and played exceptionally well his junior year, the NCAA committee gave him the cold shoulder.

"Last year I thought I played well enough, went to the NCAAs and (the committee) blew me off," Daves says. "Last year without a doubt I should have made it, but I guess you really don't know. I guess I'll just have to play good in the next three tournaments and see what happens."

Another thing that puzzles Daves is his play. Although he is playing his best golf in his tenure as a Duck, he still is frustrated.

"My stroke average is better, and basically my expectations have given me a good year," Daves says. "But even with the low stroke average, I haven't had as many high finishes. This is misleading though. This year we played three to four tourneys in the Northwest that had much tougher courses. The fields were better, and this may be why I didn't get as good of a finish."

Oregon coach Scott Krieger feels the same about his number-one man.

"George has played much more consistent this spring, but he hasn't had the spectacular finishes that were there a year ago," Krieger says. "To be an All-American he needs to win a big tournament and con-

tinue to play well. He has a good record, and with a tournament win that should do it."

But before the next three tourneys come around, Daves thinks that he must work on parts of his game.

"I need to get much better in my mental approach. My concentration has not been good all year," Daves says. "I need to figure out in my mind what it will take to win, believe in myself, and go out and do it."

"He needs to be more aggressive, and once this happens a lot more lower scores will come. What he does well is his ball striking. He hits the ball very strong and almost always makes it on the green," Krieger says. "If he continues to do this, he will stay out of trouble."

Besides his own personal goals, Daves thinks the Duck squad may be able to pull out an upset and bring a national crown back to Eugene.

"I think our top five is as good as anybody's top five when we put it all together," Daves says. "Even though that doesn't happen often, but when it does others better watch out. Hopefully we can peak at the NCAAs and win it."

Even when the season is over, Daves doesn't plan to put away his clubs. Next year he wants to come back and help the team while finishing up his economics degree, and then go on to the pro circuit.

"I feel this is definitely in my reach. It's been my goal to go through college and make it on the tour," Daves says. "I'm pretty confident that I have a career ahead of me in golf."

Krieger also thinks the circuit is within in George's reach. "He has a very sure shot at making the pros. If he exploits his strengths, he will be OK."

"It's been great here at Oregon, I've improved from my freshman to my senior year, and I accomplished what I came here to do," Daves says.

If his improvement can carry over for another month, George Daves may just accomplish a national crown.

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## Sports Shorts

The Oregon women's track team has signed **Stephanie Wessell** of Coos Bay's Marshfield High School to a national-letter-of-intent. Wessell was third in the state 3,000-meter race in 1985, and has the fastest time in the event so far this year.

The Oregon volleyball team has announced the signing of two blue-chip recruits.

**Stephanie Snyder** and **Michelle Krebsbach**, two of the nation's most highly sought high school volleyball recruits,

signed national-letters-of-intent with the Ducks recently to bolster the first recruiting class of new coach Gerry Gregory.

Snyder, a 5-foot-9 setter, led Fountain Valley High School to the semifinals of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) 4-A playoffs last season, earning all CIF honors in the process.

Gregory feels that Snyder is one of the top-prep setters in the nation this year. Snyder chose Oregon over national powers Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo and Long Beach State University.

Krebsbach is a 6-foot-1 outside blocker-hitter from St. Joseph's High School in Lakewood, Calif. She was ranked the fourth best prep volleyball player in the nation this year by Spoilers rating service.

Krebsbach led her team to the quarterfinals of the CIF 5-A playoffs this year and was named to the all-CIF first team, the third straight year she earned all-CIF honors.

She was named USVBA Junior Olympic All-American in 1984 and 1985. She chose Oregon over San Jose State University.

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