

Golfers head to Phoenix looking for NCAAs

By Craig Harris
Of the Emerald

Going into the Sun Devil-Phoenix Collegiate golf tournament this week, the Oregon men's golf team will be looking to do something they couldn't do two weeks ago.

That is to play well enough to finish ahead of UCLA and San Jose State University to wrap up an invitation to the NCAA championships.

By doing that, a lot of pressure would be taken off the team's back going into next week's Pacific-10 Conference Championships.

"This tournament is more important than the Pac 10s," Oregon coach Scott Krieger says. "Because if we play well we could close out San Jose State and UCLA and probably clinch that berth."

The only other factor that worries the third-year Duck mentor is if the NCAA committee picks five or six teams from district 8.

Oregon currently holds a fifth-place standing. If they play the way they did in their last tournament, the team will be sitting home in late May watching the NBA playoffs instead of traveling to Winston-Salem, N.C., for the NCAAs.

After finishing a disastrous 14th out of a field of 18 in the Stanford Intercollegiate, in what Krieger called their worst performance of the year, he now feels that his team is ready to turn things around.

"I think they are ready. We had two weeks off, and that was really helpful. It gave us a chance to work on things that needed work, and we should be fresh," Krieger says.

He also says the team has a changed attitude since its last tournament.

"I think they realize that no one is going to give it to them. They know that they will have to go out and perform," Krieger says.

The Sun Devil tourney will consist of 14 teams, most of which are along the West Coast.

But a few will be making cross-country trips. These include the University of Florida and the University of Missouri.

Regardless of this, Krieger is more concerned with

ASU, the host team, and USC.

"I think Arizona State is one of the best teams in the field, and it's on their own home course. The other team that will be tough is USC," Krieger says.

"It's really important to at least beat ASU and USC at some point, since they are both nationally ranked in the top ten. We want our program to be at that level some day, and beating them would give us a lot of confidence," Krieger says.

He went on to say that if the Ducks play well this week, they should have no trouble finishing in the top five. He also felt that his squad may even have an outside chance of winning the tourney if they play the kind of golf that they were playing in mid-March.

Oregon will be led by senior George Daves, who is looking to finish high or win the tournament in order to help his bid for an All-America team. Other players include Rob Huff, Tony Joyner, Croy Cochran, Steve Rintoul, and Paul Weinhold, who nudged out Tim Scott for the final qualifying position.

After the Sun Devil tourney ends Saturday, the Ducks will head to Thousand Oaks, Calif., to compete in the Pac-10 championships from May 5-7.



Photo by Michael Wilhelm

Senior George Daves will lead the Oregon golf team when it heads to Phoenix, Ariz., for the Sun Devil-Phoenix Collegiate tournament before the team goes to the Pac-10 championships.

Sports Shorts

Registration is now open for adult and junior tennis players interested in competing in the annual Oregon Spring Tennis Championships hosted by the University.

The adult tournament runs May 9-11 at the 15th Street and covered tennis courts on the Oregon campus. Entries for the tournament will be accepted through Friday.

The junior tournament is slated for May 16-18 at the same sites, with registration closing May 9. Players must present USTA cards for the sanctioned event, with awards being handed out to winners and runners-up in all events.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Emory "Buzz" Summers in the Athletic Department at 686-5476.

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