

Oregon lurks in fourth place after first day of Pac-10's

By Dan Goulet
Of the Emerald

With two rounds to go in the Pacific 10 Conference golf championships, Oregon is locked up in a fourth-place tie at the Eugene Country Club.

Arizona State University and University of Arizona trail tourney leader UCLA by eight and 11 shots, respectively, while Oregon and USC remain 17 back with 36 holes to play.

Oregon got excellent play from All-American candidate Steve Rintoul, who fired a one-under-par, 143 total to leave himself just two strokes back of

Oregon's Tim Hval mirrored Huff with rounds of 80 and 72, but the team was fortunate enough to blanket those scores and remain within striking distance of the Bruins.

"We have to shoot par golf the rest of the way to have any chance of winning," said coach Scott Krieger.

Perfect weather conditions didn't do much to keep scores down as 57 of the 60 golfers failed to shoot under par scores for the two rounds. Because of those high scores, 11 players remain within five strokes of the leader.

"We haven't played well the last month and things haven't been clicking our way."

Although Oregon isn't clicking as a team, Rintoul is keeping perfect time.

The junior from Australia played nearly flawless golf — he had two birdies with just one bogey in 36 holes. He missed birdie putts of five and ten feet on the sixth and seventh holes, but still fared better than pre-tourney favorite, Bill Mayfair of ASU.

Huff hit the ball alright for the initial 18, then hit it right and left the last 18. "Rob just lost confidence and got on a bad streak," Krieger said.

That same bad streak plagued Hval in the opening round, but he rallied in the second 18 to post the second-best team round. "I just started slow and didn't get it going," he critiqued.

Hval just missed a 20-foot eagle on hole 13, and his game took off from there. "The last five holes I played excellent and tomorrow I'm going to go out and do it again," he said.

Long-baller Tony Joyner

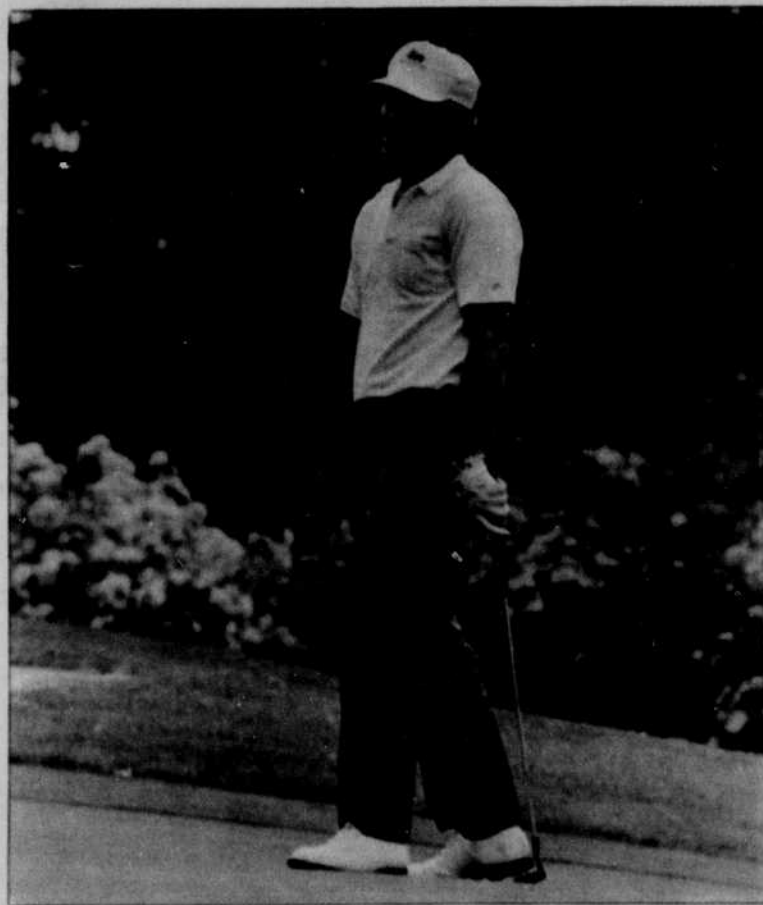


Photo by John Giustina

Oregon senior Rob Huff looks helplessly at his errant shot. Huff shot a two-round total of 153.

'We have to shoot par golf the rest of the way to have any chance of winning.'

— Scott Krieger

front-runner Bobby Laskin of UCLA

UCLA used Laskin's effort to stave themselves to an early lead while Oregon failed to follow Rintoul's cue. The Ducks' Rob Huff played brilliantly in the opening round, firing a one-under 71, but then his evil twin took over in the second round, when he ballooned to an 82.

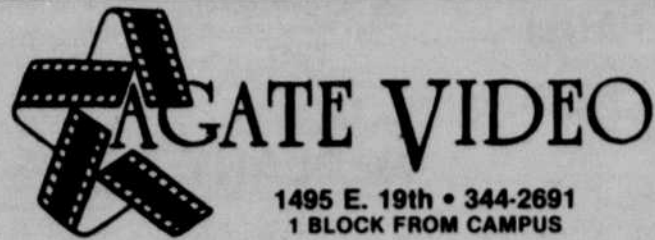
Arizona State, Arizona, Oregon and USC will probably be the only teams to challenge the Bruins the rest of the way with the Ducks needing a superlative effort.

Krieger feels his team should have fared better on its home course and knows it will be tough the rest of the way. "I'm frustrated for the kids," he said.

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