

Sports

Third round a charm for Ducks; Joyner hangs just one shot back

By Dan Goulet

Of the Emerald

The Oregon men's golf team fired its best round in the Pacific 10 Conference championships Tuesday, but it still wasn't enough to cut into tourney leaders UCLA and University of Arizona.

The Bruins continued to blister the Eugene Country Club course after a four-over-par team total 364 that left them three strokes ahead of Arizona going into the final round.

The Ducks dropped three strokes to the tourney leader but broke away from a tie with USC to claim sole possession of fourth place — just five strokes behind third-place Arizona State University.

Ironically, Oregon's best round came when its best player played the worst. Steve Rintoul swung his way out of the leaders bracket when he bloated to a seven-over 79.

However, Oregon's Tony Joyner used a cannon swing off the tee and a velvet touch on the greens to claim a three-under 69, leaving him just one stroke back of tournament leader Jim Strickland of Arizona State.

Joyner bombed drives close to 300 yards and would finish off with dead-eye putting. He one-putted six of the last seven holes and needed only 27 for the round. "If I'm going to win this tournament I have to go for shots that other people would lay-up on," he said.

Joyner rarely hit short to the greens and many times reached the par fives in two strokes.

He attributes his aggressive play to a conversation with his brother, Shell, who was an All-American golfer at Oregon in the early 1980s. "After the second round he told me to go for the stick whenever I had the chance, and that's what I'm doing," Joyner said.

On the final hole, Joyner sank an 18-foot putt to save par and break 70. "I wanted to get the

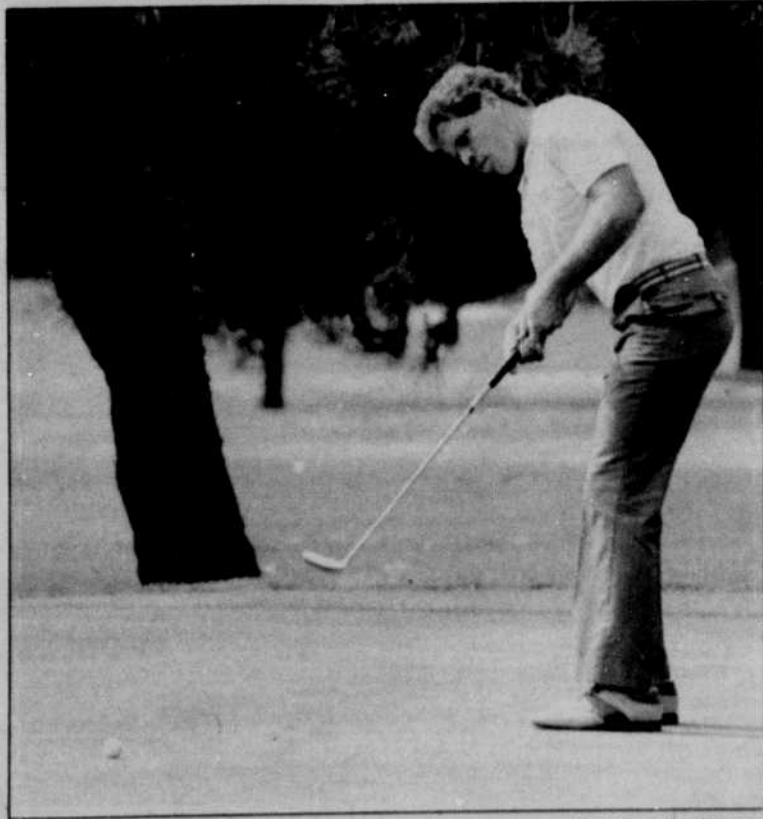


Photo by John Giustina

Oregon's Tony Joyner made waves in the race for the individual title Tuesday by shooting a three-under 69. He remains one shot behind leader Jim Strickland of ASU heading into today's fourth and final round.

ball to the hole, but I didn't want to ram it by. I think my yelling at the ball scared it so much it hid in the hole," he said.

Oregon's Tim Hval guaranteed a good round after the first day, and he delivered with a one-under 71. Hval is the only Duck to shoot at or below par for two rounds, and he's claimed the second best score on the team twice.

Coach Scott Krieger realizes his teams chances of winning the title are incalculable, but he

also knows a strong finish might help come NCAA selection time. "We moved up quite a bit and played pretty well," he said. "We can only shoot our

Turn to Joyner, Page 12

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