

Ducks look to continue fine play at regionals

By Robert Weber
Emerald Sports Reporter

One week after winning its first tournament of the season, the Oregon men's golf team appears to be peaking at the right time heading into this weekend's NCAA West Regionals in Albuquerque, N.M.

The Ducks' group of young golfers struggled through the fall campaign before putting together a string of solid tournaments during the spring to earn the team's third consecutive invitation to the regionals.

Eighteen teams and four individuals will compete in a 54-hole event that gets under way

Thursday and runs through Saturday at the 7,300-yard University of New Mexico South Golf Course.

The top nine teams, and top two individuals, qualify for the NCAA Championships, June 5-8 at Poppy Hills Golf Course, and Oregon Coach Scott Krieger doesn't see any reason why he team shouldn't secure its second straight NCAA berth.

"If we just play like we have for the majority of the spring we'll be just fine," Krieger said.

Last weekend's victory at Oregon State's Nike Intercollegiate provided the final piece of confidence that the team needs

heading to Albuquerque, Krieger said.

"We used the tourney to decide who our fifth player was for the Regionals," Krieger said. "Overall, it was probably the weakest field we've faced all year, but Stanford brought its first team and we beat them for the first time this year."

Oregon's five-man roster for the Regionals includes juniors Doug DuChateau, Mark Aldrich, Troy Tamiya, Cam Martin and, lone sophomore, Jeff Lyons.

DuChateau, in his first year of collegiate golf, has been the team's most consistent performer this year. After intro-

ducing himself to college golf with a team-low 74.5 scoring average during the fall, DuChateau went one step further during the spring, collecting two individual titles, lowering his average to 74.3 and earning honorable mention all-Pacific-10 Conference.

Aldrich, who has completely recovered from a pinched nerve in his neck this spring, believes Arizona and Arizona State are the teams to beat at the regionals, but he is confident the Ducks' are ready for the tough competition.

"Arizona and Arizona State are as solid as any two teams in the country," Aldrich said.

"You really have to like Arizona because they are coming off a big win at the Pac-10 tournament."

UNLV won the West Regionals last season with a three-day total of 832 while the Ducks finished seventh and qualified for the NCAA Championships. Arizona State, Arizona, USC and Fresno State all finished ahead of the Oregon in last year's event.

Krieger started the season with a young, inexperienced team, but he believes they have grown and matured throughout the fall and spring seasons.

"I knew we would start slowly," Krieger said. "I told them at the start of the year that they would eventually be a good team. I just never thought we would play as poor as we did during the fall or be able to turn it around so fast this spring."

Blazers pull away at end to beat L.A.

PORTLAND (AP) — Terry Porter scored 26 points, including a crucial 20-footer with 1:39 to play, as the Portland Trail Blazers evened the Western Conference finals at 1-1 by beating the Los Angeles Lakers 109-98 Tuesday night.

The Lakers, who lost on the road for the first time in five playoff games, never led in the second half and threw the ball away twice after narrowing Portland's lead to 100-96 late in the game.

Clyde Drexler had 21 points and 10 rebounds for the Blazers, who outrebounded the Lakers 51-28. Jerome Kersey scored 18 points and Kevin Duckworth 17 for Portland, which lost the series opener 111-106 on their homecourt Saturday.

James Worthy scored 21 points and Byron Scott 20, including four 3-pointers, for the Lakers. Magic Johnson had 19 points and 12 assists, but committed eight turnovers.

Sam Perkins also scored 19 points for the Lakers, who play host for the third and fourth games of the best-of-7 series Friday night and Sunday.

Portland led most of the game, including the entire fourth quarter, but the Lakers never were more than nine points down until the final seconds.

The Lakers trailed 84-82 after Perkins' three-point play with 10:30 to play. But Portland, using a three-guard lineup, scored the next five points to take an 89-82 lead on Porter's driving layup with 8:39 to go.

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