

Men's golf looks to defend team title at home

By Steve Mims
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon men's golf team will be looking to defend its team title against a tougher field this week when it hosts the Duck Invitational, beginning this morning at Eugene Country Club.

The 54-hole tournament will open with 36 holes today followed by the final 18 holes at Emerald Valley Resort on Tuesday.

The Ducks won the tournament last year, the first of three team wins in 1993, by two strokes over San Jose State and Brigham Young. This year's team favorite is defending Pacific-10 Conference champion Arizona State, currently ranked 10th in the country. The Sun Devils are expected to bring their top two players, Todd Demsey and Scott Johnson, to Eugene and fill out the rest of the squad with second-teamers.

San Jose State and Brigham Young will be back after tying for second place at the tournament a year ago while Oregon State and USC should also be near the top of the leader board.

"It's an extremely strong field," Oregon coach Steve Nosler said. "I feel fortunate to get the schools we did."

Demsey is the defending NCAA champion, and would be the favorite if he enters the tournament. Demsey made the cut two weeks ago at the Buick Invitational on the PGA Tour. Other top individuals include defending champion Eric Rustand of BYU, Boise State's David LeBeck and Chris Jorgenson of Washington State.

Junior Ted Snively leads the Ducks with a 73.9 scoring average and two Top-10 finishes, including eighth place at the Big Island

Intercollegiate two weeks ago. Snively finished 16th at the Duck Invitational last year, the top finish of any Oregon returnee this year.

The remainder of Oregon's lineup will feature senior Randy McCracken, junior Paul Regali and two freshmen, J.J. Astorquia and Joel Stock. McCracken has played in all six tournaments for the Ducks this year and is second on the team with a 75.4 scoring average.

Stock will be playing in his fourth tournament of the year, while Astorquia will be making his college debut this week. Astorquia earned a spot on the team by winning the team's qualifying tournament after shooting even-par over three rounds.

"For a young person, J.J. has outstanding judgment on the course," Nosler said of the freshman from Hayden, Idaho. "He can hit it probably as long as anyone on the team and keeps it under control."

This week's tournament is only Oregon's second of the spring season, coming on the heels of the Big Island Intercollegiate. The Ducks finished 12th in that tournament at 894, tying their second best team score of the season.

"12th in Hawaii was not bad, but eight of the teams ahead of us were ranked in the top 15 in the country," Nosler said.

As for this week, Nosler has his sights set a little higher.

"Even though the field is tough, we aren't just showing up to participate, but to finish well," he said.

The Oregon women's team will also be in action this week, beginning play in the Jones

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— Steve Nosler
Mens Golf Coach

Sport Utah/Dixie Classic at Sunbrook Course in St. George, Utah, this morning.

Oregon's lineup will feature senior Cappy Mack, juniors Shannon Hare, Karly Mills and Rebecca Giersdorf along with Christel Tomori.

The Ducks finished second at the tournament last year, behind Texas A&M. Tomori finished tied for sixth place a year ago, tops among Oregon players who will be competing this week.

The Ducks enter the tournament with a No. 14 ranking in the latest *Golfweek* poll. Oklahoma State, ranked 10th in the nation, is the top rated team in the tournament. Host Brigham Young, which finished third at the tournament last year, and New Mexico are other top teams in the field.

The Ducks opened the spring season two weeks ago with a seventh-place finish at the Chris Johnson Invitational, after taking three and one-half months off for the winter.

Mills and Hare led the Ducks at the tournament in Tucson, shooting matching 229s for the three-round event. Mack and Tomori were next at 230, followed by Giersdorf at 232.

The tournament runs through Wednesday with 18 holes being played each day.

Women's tennis ties, wins in Cal

The Oregon women's tennis team split a pair of matches and tied another on a trip to California this weekend.

Electricity was Oregon's opponent in Thursday's match against Cal Poly Pomona, as the lights over the tennis courts began to flicker and the teams agreed to end the match tied at 4-4. Friday Oregon got a 5-1 win over UC Davis that coach Tom Grieder called "one of the biggest wins in this program's history." UC Davis is the defending Division II national champion.

The Ducks lone loss of the weekend was 5-4 against Pacific. Jackie DeFord, Sherry Fairgrieve and Cynthia Armstrong picked up singles wins while Krissy Barger and Elise Adams won a doubles match.

"Pacific has beaten us 9-0 the last two years," Grieder said. "So this was a tough loss. It's a good loss, though; that's a polite way of putting it."

CARDINAL

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The anticipated second matchup of freshman point guards Knight and Oregon's Kenya Wilkins never really materialized. Knight was saddled with foul trouble all night and finished with nine points and two assists in only 24 minutes. Stanford's David Harbour did a good job in place of Knight, scoring eight points and dishing out three assists without turning the ball over.

Wilkins looked like he wouldn't do much either in the first half, missing all

eight of his shots. However, Wilkins scored 23 points in the second half, including four of five shooting from three point range, and finished with eight rebounds and five assists as well.

Oregon center Zach Sellers was inserted into the starting lineup again and responded with nine points and a team-high 10 rebounds. Forward Henry Madden also scored nine points, while Darryl Parker and Jeff Potter scored eight points apiece.

The Ducks will finish Year Two of the Jerry Green Era this weekend when USC and UCLA visit McArthur Court.

STANFORD

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The crowd of 5,790 got boisterous and helped fluster the Cardinal into a string of turnovers and missed shots, but Oregon kept missing opportunities on its offensive end.

Stanford finally righted itself with fewer than seven minutes left in the game when Cardinal forward Kate Paye hit a bomb from well beyond the three-point arc to give Stanford a 54-52 lead.

The basket ignited the Cardinal and deflated the Ducks. Paye finished an 11-2 Stanford run by banking home another three-pointer to make the score 62-54 Stanford with five minutes remaining.

Time remained for an Oregon comeback, but the Ducks, deflated by the Stanford rally and drained by a long, emotional game, never rallied.

"I thought our kids played hard and the tide didn't swing our way," Oregon head coach Jody Runge said. "I thought we got tired and we didn't

play defense as well as we are capable of playing."

"When you get down that much with three minutes to play, confidence is a very fragile thing. We were tired and we weren't thinking real clearly and we just couldn't put the ball in the basket," Runge said.

Oregon outshot Stanford for the game, but the Ducks' field goal percentage dipped to .364 in the second half after a hot-shooting first half. However, the big difference statistically was in rebounding. Stanford collected 23 offensive rebounds and dominated Oregon 44-30 on the boards.

The game marked the final home game for three players that have come to form the heart and soul of the Duck women's basketball program: guard Missy Croshaw, forward Debbie Sporich and center Sara Wilson. All had good but not great games.

"It's pretty disappointing. When you've got a chance at the Pac-10 championship and in that one game you lose it, it's tough to take," Croshaw said.

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by Charles Marier

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REMINDER! TODAY IS THE DAY to turn in orders from last week-end's party. Love Wally

105 PERSONALS

My apologies to all the men/perverts who called for the strawberry blonde in the last issue. It was all a joke and there will be no steamy, sweet romances ever connected.

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