



Confident Ducks open NCAA tourney

Kris Henry
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon women's golf team will be looking to capitalize on its recent hot streak when the squad takes to the links today at the NCAA Championships in Wilmington, N.C.

Making their third-straight NCAA appearance, the Ducks are quietly confident of finishing in the upper echelon of the elite 18-team field. The tournament features 18 holes each day for the 72-hole event, with play concluding on Saturday.

"We're playing better and better and we're very prepared for this tournament," Oregon head coach Lara Mack Tennant said. "With the experience we have on our team, we should have a good performance. Our goal is to finish in the top 10 and I think that's realistic."

Last season, Oregon finished 14th in the prestigious tournament, but all eyes are looking for a dramatic improvement. This confident feeling stems from the Ducks' fourth-place finish at the West Regional Tournament two weeks ago and the experience of Oregon's five core golfers.

"For us to finish fourth in the West Regional was a real confidence boost because we know the teams on the East Coast aren't as strong in comparison as the teams on the West Coast," Tennant said. "Past finishes in NCAA tournaments have shown that the West is the much stronger regional area."

If the makeup of the field is any indication, the same holds true for this year's championships. Eleven of the 18 participants hail from the West Regional, including two-time defending national champion Ari-

zona State and co-regional champion San Jose State.

Other entries from the West Regional are Stanford, Texas, Washington, UCLA, Arizona, USC, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

Entries from the East Regional include regional champion Wake Forest, Furman, Duke, South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina and Indiana.

Competition will be played at the Landfall Club in Wilmington, N.C., which bodes well for the Ducks. The Oregon women played at the par 72, 6,061 yard course in November at the NCAA Preview. In that appearance, they carded a 953 and finished tied for 10th.

Described by Tennant as a "tough but very scoreable" course, the Pete Dye-designed landscape could play a considerable role in

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Robinson wins MVP, now wants NBA title

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — David Robinson wasn't ready to celebrate after winning the NBA's most valuable player award Tuesday.

The San Antonio center said he's too busy focusing on the Spurs' playoff series against Houston and last year's MVP Hakeem Olajuwon in the Western Conference final.

"We're in the middle of this battle and it's going to be hard to celebrate anything right now," Robinson said. "This is an incredible honor and I don't think it's going to sink into my head for some time."

In a league where centers have again emerged as the dominant players, the 7-foot-1-inch Robinson was the most consistent as he led the Spurs to a league-best 62-20 record. His teammates felt the award was a foregone conclusion.

"If he wouldn't have won it, that would have been a big surprise," Sean Elliott said. "The NBA would have had the legitimacy of Don King Productions."

Robinson, who averaged 27.6 points, 10.8 rebounds and 3.2 blocks per game, beat runner-up Shaquille O'Neal of Orlando by a wide margin. Robinson received 73 first-place votes and 901 points, while O'Neal got 12 firsts and 605 points from a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Utah's Karl Malone was third, followed by New York's Patrick Ewing, Houston's Hakeem Olajuwon, Charles Barkley of Phoenix, Chicago's Scottie Pippen and Utah's John Stockton.

Robinson said learning to deal with high expectations has helped him get to the top of his profession.

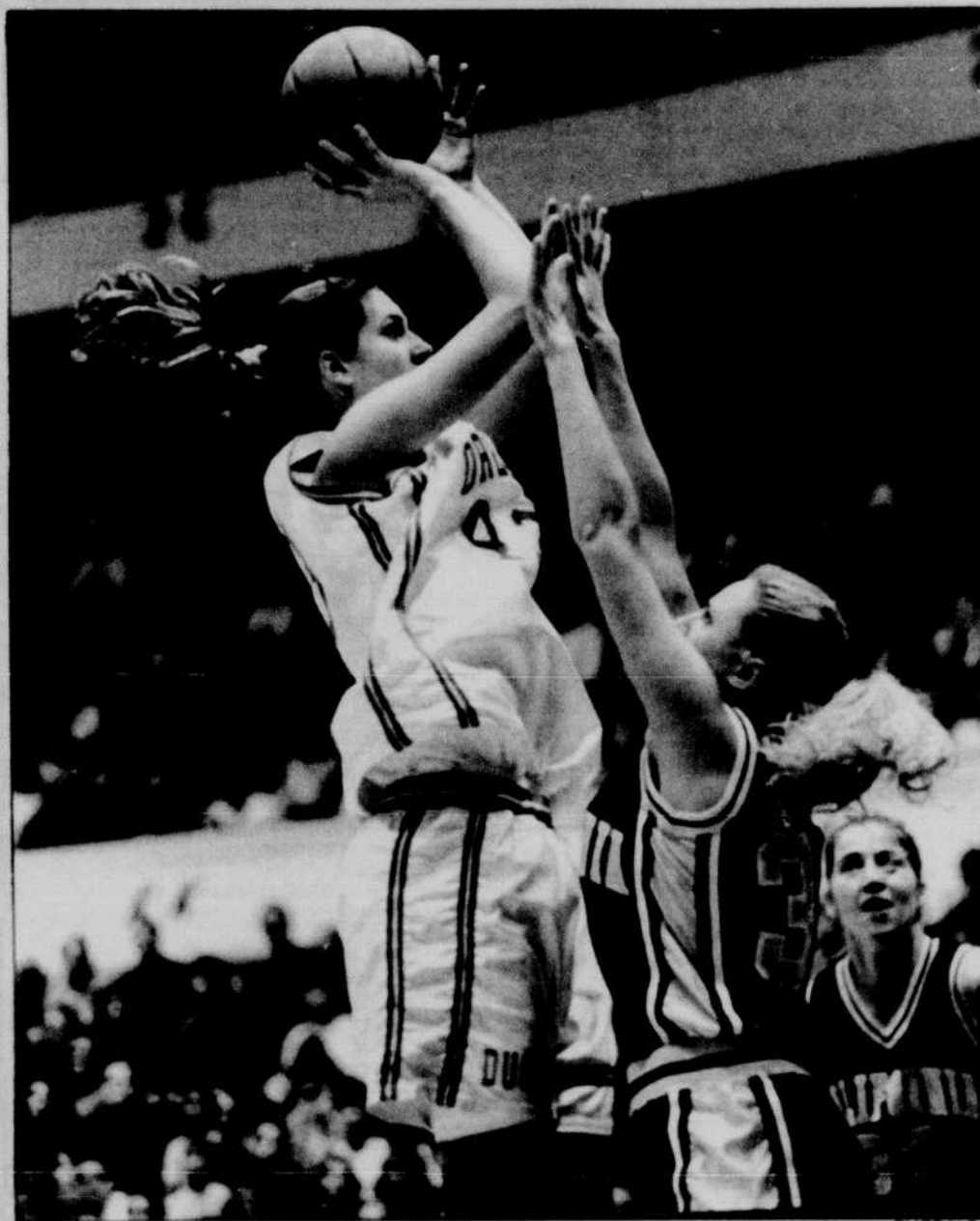
"Carrying the team is a whole

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YEAR OF THE DUCK

RENAE FEGENT



EMERALD

As a newcomer to the Oregon women's basketball program, the Australian transfer took center stage for the Ducks throughout the season and during the NCAA tournament. Fegent's ability were matched by few in the Pac-10 conference.

In her first season with the Ducks, the junior was the league's top shot blocker (2.3) and fifth-best scorer (17.2), while finishing the season at the eighth spot on the

school's career rejection list with 63 blocks. She also was Oregon's leading scorer in 12 of the 27 regular season games including a 31-point performance in only her second game with the Ducks.

Fegent will be returning for her senior season this fall in hopes of her team progressing past the first round of the post-season tournament.

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Belle candy bar on the market

CLEVELAND (AP) — Reggie Jackson had a candy bar named for them.

Now, so does Cleveland Indians outfielder Albert Belle.

Malley's Chocolates on Tuesday introduced its new confection at a news conference, which Belle did not attend.

His absence failed to dampen the enthusiasm of officials of the candy and ice cream company.

"We're happy and proud to name our new candy bar after Albert," said Bill Malley, president of the company. "We decided that since Albert crunches the ball so often, we would make it a chocolate crunch bar."

The candy is being sold for \$1 each at Malley's 13 stores in northeast Ohio. Later, it will be distributed to other area retailers and made available across the country through baseball card and memorabilia dealers.

Rough choice for CFL's Rough Riders

OTTAWA (AP) — Derrell Robertson, a defensive end at Mississippi State in the late 1980s, died following an auto accident late last year.

Word of his death, however, never reached the Ottawa Rough Riders. They picked Robertson in the fourth round of the Canadian Football League's dispersal draft of players from the defunct Las Vegas Posse.

Robertson was the Ottawa team's fourth pick. Although he had been dead for months, his name was never removed from the draft list.

"I don't know how it happened," Ottawa coach Jim Gilstrap told the *Ottawa Sun*. "The league didn't know until we told them. And we didn't know until a week ago when we couldn't find him."

Robertson's name was discreetly removed from the team's roster last week, the *Sun* said.

Kelly traded to L.A. Dodgers

Center fielder Roberto Kelly, obtained by Montreal from Atlanta last month, was dealt by the Expos to the Los Angeles Dodgers as part of a multiplayer trade Tuesday.

Left-handed reliever and minor-league prospect Joey Eischen joined Kelly in the deal, in which the Expos acquired outfielder Henry Rodriguez and veteran infielder Jeff Treadway from Los Angeles.