

Oregon teams look for success on the greens this fall

■ **GOLF:** Both Oregon teams look for better scores than last weekend

By Trevor Kearney
Sports Editor

After competing against several of the top college teams in the country last weekend, the Oregon men's and women's golf teams take to the road again this weekend in the second of the teams' fall tournaments.

The men travel to Albuquerque, N.M., for the Tucker Intercollegiate today and tomorrow, while the women compete in the Nike Northwest Collegiate in Corval-

lis on Monday and Tuesday.

The men placed 17th out of an 18 team field last weekend at the Ping/Golfweek Fall Preview, a tournament that included 15 of the country's toughest teams, head coach Steve Nosler said.

"We play against all the best teams multiple times," Nosler said. "We start off seeing the best teams and I think that is the best way to improve."

The Ducks had a rocky first round last weekend, shooting a 323 as a team, but came back and shot a 298 in the second round and finished with a score of 928, three strokes better than last place Houston.

The men are led by redshirt freshman

Derek Croskey, who led the team at last weekend's 54-hole event with a 78-73-81 performance, and junior J.J. Astorquia, who shot a 79-77-76. Sophomores Chris Cone and Jeff Barney and junior Joel Stock round out the team's top five golfers.

For the women, seniors Susie Roh, Christel Tomori and Tara Keller provide crucial experience, but sophomore Paula Patterson looks like she will contribute as well after finishing atop the Oregon finishers last weekend with an overall score of 226 in the 54-hole tournament. The Ducks finished 17th in the 19-team Rolex Fall Preview.

"Experience is everything in college

golf," said women's head coach Renee Baumgartner. "That is why I added a couple more tournaments to the schedule, because I feel like this team needs that experience, and they will get it and be ready when it counts."

It counts in the spring, when the team has the chance to qualify for national competition. But that task, Baumgartner says, is easier said than done, as the team has one of the country's toughest conferences to get through first.

"(The Pac-10) is by far the strongest conference for women's golf," she said, adding that of the 17 teams that went to nationals last year, seven were from the Pac-10.

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