

Oregon goes 3-3 to open season

■ **SOFTBALL:** The Ducks split six games to start the year, including an upset of 17th-ranked Florida State

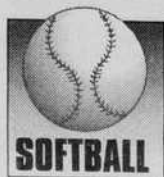
The Oregon women's softball team grabbed its third win of the season with a 6-2 victory over UC Santa Barbara in the final game of the ASU Coca-Cola Classic in Phoenix Sunday.

Both teams started slowly, scoring one run apiece to tie the game in the third inning. Santa Barbara (7-6 overall) then took the lead in the fourth on a solo home run by Herry Kops.

Oregon (3-3 overall) struck back in the fifth with four runs as Angie LeRoy, Allison Nihei, Heather Holte and Jill Robinson each hit RBI singles for a three-run lead, 5-2. Lindsey Welch knocked in Melisa Lemke for Oregon's final score in the sixth.

Oregon pitcher Petrina Mar-

tinez kept her record perfect with two strikeouts and four walks. The Ducks also received a strong performance from junior transfer Jill Martinez, who batted 2-2, walked once and scored three runs.



Getting on base was not a problem for Santa Barbara; however, scoring was. The team left ten players on base during the game. Freshman pitcher Jennifer Tolton picked up the loss for the Gauchos after replacing starter Megan O'Brien in the fourth inning.

This weekend's tournament was the season opener for the Ducks. After losing its first game of the tournament on Thursday to Texas, Oregon bounced back to split two games on Friday, beating Purdue 7-2 before losing to 12th-

ranked Cal State Fullerton 11-3. On Saturday, the Ducks upset 17th-ranked Florida State 6-1, then lost to Ohio State later in the afternoon.

Holte finished the tournament with three home runs, including two in Saturday's game against the Seminoles, leading an Oregon team that displayed a potent offense.

"I knew our offense would be pretty good," Oregon head coach Rick Gamez said. "Several girls certainly have hot bats right now."

Duck pitcher Petrina Martinez picked up all three Oregon wins and is 3-0 on the year.

Oregon continues its tournament play next weekend in the UNLV Softball Classic in Las Vegas. The Ducks will play five teams in the tournament, starting Friday against Loyola Marymount.

Men's golf team finishes eighth

■ **TOURNAMENT:** Jeff Barney shot a final-round 74 to lead the Ducks with a final 216

By Ryan Halvorsen
Sports Reporter

The Oregon men's golf team finished off its two-tournament stand in Hawaii Saturday by finishing eighth out of 22 teams at the Taylor Made Big Island Intercollegiate at Waikaloa.

The Ducks were tied for sixth after the first day of play, shooting a two-round total of 580 as a team. UNLV and USC outplayed the rest of the field with both teams shooting a 562 after two rounds, 10 shots ahead of third place Pepperdine.

Oregon's Jeff Barney played solid on the first day, shooting two rounds of 71, putting him at two under par for the course. J. J. Astorquia opened the tournament with a 74, but came back in the second round with a two-under par 70. Derek Croskrey was four shots behind Astorquia after shooting a two-round 148 — Chris Cone shot a 150 and Ben Crane scored a 154.

Oregon slipped a little on the second day of play, dropping from a tie for sixth to an eighth-place tie to finish out the tournament. Scores were down for all teams in the third round, but Texas Christian and

Arizona State moved ahead of the Ducks on the final day. The Ducks were 13 shots off their second-round pace in the third round, shooting a 299 to end the tournament.

Barney moved up to finish in a tie for 10th place individually as he shot a final-round 74 to finish with 216 for three rounds. Astorquia shot a final round 77 as he finished five shots behind Barney with a 221. Croskrey finished with a 224, Cone a 225 and Crane ended with 228.



"I am really proud of them because they weren't out just playing for respectability; they're out to win tournaments," Oregon coach Steve Nosler said.

UNLV won the tournament, outdistancing USC by 13 shots and Arizona State came in third. Bill Lude of UCLA was the individual medalist as he finished six-under par with a 210. Brian Hull of USC was second, one shot behind Lude, and Doug La Belle from New Mexico and Mike Vance of UNLV were two shots off of the lead to finish third.

The Ducks will continue their season when they host the Oregon Duck Invitational on March 10 and 11.

Victory: Ducks look to Pac-10 Championships

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win in a row. David Perkins won a 3-0 decision over Dave Molinari to put Oregon up 6-0, and Jeremy Ensrud won by forfeit to make it 12-0 Oregon.

Dustin Young put the Broncos on the board with a 6-1 decision over Dusty Roberts, but Oregon took the next three weight classes to build an insurmountable lead. Scott Norton led the charge at 150 pounds in his final match at McArthur Court with a 6-0 decision over Larry Quisel. Sean Morgan followed up with a 7-0 defeat of David Levitt, and Greg Johnson won a major decision over Candon Tanaka 12-4.

Boise State's Scott Surplus scored a takedown with seven seconds remaining in the match to down Royce Repenn 6-4, and Rusty Cook won by fall over Chael Sonnen before Rich Polkinghorn won the final match for the Ducks, 9-4, over Jeremy Clayton.

On Friday, the Ducks took advantage of a couple of Oregon State injuries to key wrestlers to win their second consecutive league match against the Beavers. The Ducks haven't won in Corval-

lis since 1991, which was also the last time Oregon beat Oregon State twice in one season. The Beavers were missing two nationally ranked wrestlers, and that opened up the door for Oregon's blowout.

Mier won by forfeit to start the Ducks out with a six-point lead. Perkins dropped a 7-3 decision to rival Jake Whisenhunt, and then the Ducks rolled. Ensrud beat Josh Whisenhunt 11-5, Roberts beat Phillip Baldacci 5-3 before Norton squeaked out a close one against Isaac Wood, 4-3. Morgan upset Jason Gutches who was first in the Pac-10 at 158, 3-2, and Johnson decisioned Clint Wilson 10-5.

"I was kind of sick going into this weekend so I struggled a little bit," Norton said. "Now I have two weeks to get healthy, and I basically just need to get some rest and get over my sickness and I should be fine for the Pac-10s."

Oregon State's Sanders Freed beat Repenn 4-2 before Sonnen pinned Chris Renzullo 1 minute, 53 seconds into the match. Mat Orndorff decisioned Polkinghorn 10-6 to salvage some points for the struggling Beavers.

“They're talking that the Ducks are hot right now. We've beaten some pretty good teams. I think we're definitely going to make a good showing at the Pac-10s.”

— Ron Finley
UO Wrestling Head Coach

With the wins, the Ducks picked up some much needed momentum going into the Pac-10 Championships in two weeks.

"They're talking that the Ducks are hot right now," Finley said. "We've beaten some pretty good teams. I think that we're definitely going to make a good showing at the Pac-10s. I don't know if we have the number one guys to get the big points in the tournament, but the way they're scrapping, I think we're going to do well from top to bottom, and if we do we'll be right in there for the tournament."

Oregon will have a couple weeks to prepare for the Pac-10 Championships on March 2-3 in Tempe, Ariz.

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