

Oregon faces six top-20 teams in ASU tourney

■ **GOLF:** UO will be looking to turn things around after a sub-par performance

By Ryan Halvorsen
Sports Reporter

The Oregon men's golf team takes to the road again this weekend as it travels to the Arizona State Thunderbird/Savane Invitational this Saturday and Sunday in Tempe, Ariz.

Two rounds of 18 holes will be played on the first day with the final round of 18 on Sunday at the 7,027-yard, par-72 Karsten Golf Course.

The 14-team tournament will feature a host of ranked opponents for Oregon. No. 2 Oklahoma State, No. 5 USC, No. 8 Arizona, No. 9 Arizona State, No. 11 Texas and No. 14 Ohio State will all compete in Tempe. Also competing in the tournament will be California, Missouri, Oklahoma, Oregon State, Pacific, UCLA and Washington.

The Ducks, No. 36 in the nation, continued their streak of top-10 finishes last week, finishing 10th at the Southwestern Intercollegiate. Oregon now has 10 top-10

finishes this year, including five top-five finishes and one victory. The win came last fall at the Fresno State Lexus Classic.

Scheduled to play for Oregon this week are Ben Crane, Jeff Barney, Chris Cone, J. J. Astorquia and Ryan Lavoie. Astorquia and Cone are both coming off of sub-par performances last week when they tied for 43rd. It was the lowest finish of the year for Astorquia and the second lowest for Cone.

Barney, on the other hand, is riding a successful wave into this week's tournament having finished in the top 30 four out of the last five tournaments. Lavoie, who hasn't seen consistent action this year, will be filling in for Derek Croskrey. Crane led the Ducks last weekend, finishing 21st after a seventh-place finish the week before at the Pacific Coast Intercollegiate.

The Ducks have two more tournaments, the Stanford Collegiate Invitational April 25-26 and the Northwest College Challenge April 20.



Ducks: Wheaton may go in fourth

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former Oregon quarterback. Graziani made a trip to Kansas City to meet with the owners and look at the facilities. A knee injury sidelining Graziani for part of the 1996 season has healed completely and he maintains he has the same mobility as before the injury.

Through workouts with roommate Schmidt, Graziani has bulked up to more than 200 pounds, which has also increased his stock.

Projection: Fourth or fifth round

Kenny Wheaton: The former Oregon cornerback left the Ducks after his junior year and was initially expected to be a third-round pick, but a slow 40-yard time and questionable testing at NFL workouts could drop him to lower rounds.

In addition, this year's draft is especially deep in cornerbacks. Former Ohio State cornerback Shawn Springs is expected to be taken by the Seahawks with the third overall pick, and former Longhorn cornerback Bryant Westbrook and former Hawkeye cornerback Tom Knight should also go in the first round.

Projection: Fourth round

Josh Wilcox: The former Duck tight end has yet to be contacted by an NFL team, but feels his performance in the Blue-Gray Classic and his last workout for the scouts at the combine in Indianapolis, Ind. and in Eugene improved his stock.

Right now it's just a waiting game for Wilcox, who would like to follow in his father's footsteps and play in the NFL.

"You need a few cold ones to take the edge off. You've got to try to keep busy and try to take things off your mind, but D-Day's coming up," Wilcox said.

Projection: Free agency

Reggie Jordan: The outside linebacker has been given the indication that he will be selected in the late

rounds or picked up as a free agent somewhere. Jordan participated in three workouts for the scouts and said things went well, but the feedback from the scouts was limited.

Jordan, who will be watching the draft at home with his mother, said he is honored just to have a shot at the NFL.

"I'm excited to be spoken in the same tense as the NFL," Jordan said. "Even before the big salaries, football has been a dream of mine."

Projection: Free agency

Mark Schmidt: Like Jordan, Schmidt expects either a call in the late rounds or free agency. Schmidt's 41 repetitions of 225 pounds on the bench press was just three reps away from the all-time record for NFL combine participants. At 6-2, Schmidt's size is a concern for some teams, but a handful of teams including Seattle, Minnesota and St. Louis have indicated interest in Schmidt as an offensive guard.

If he doesn't get a call during the draft, Schmidt is positive a team will invite him to NFL camp him as a free agent.

"I think it is very realistic that I'll be a free agent. I can prove myself," he said. "I can do it if I can get a shot."

Projection: Free agency

Derrick Barnes:

Jordan's mate at outside linebacker could be picked up in the late rounds, but if he doesn't get the early call someone is expected to show interest in Barnes as a free agent.

Projection: Free agency

The first three rounds of the draft will start at 9 a.m. Saturday, with rounds four through seven to start Sunday at 8 a.m. ESPN will televise the first seven hours Saturday, and ESPN2 will take over the coverage at 4 p.m.

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First Round: Cardinals will look for help at QB

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tent player the Bucs wanted.

FREE-AGENT SIGNINGS: None.

PROBABLE PICK: Jones, Green, Dunn or Rae Carruth, WR, Colorado with first choice; Farrior or Sharper with second, and Carruth might last that long, too. Could try for Chris Naeole, G, Colorado, or Jerry Wunsch, OT, Wisconsin.

9. Arizona (7-9)

NEEDS: Offense, particularly at quarterback, where Cards aren't sold on Kent Graham as long-term solution. Running back, speed at wide receiver, defensive backs.

FREE-AGENT SIGNINGS:

None to speak of. But re-signing FB Larry Centers was important.

PROBABLE PICK: Jones, Green, Carruth, Dunn, not necessarily in that order. Jim Druckenmiller, QB, Virginia Tech; Antowaine Smith, RB, Houston.

10. New Orleans (4-12) (from Oakland)

NEEDS: Just about everything except pass rushers.

FREE-AGENT SIGNINGS: None.

PROBABLE PICK: Dunn, Druckenmiller, Carruth, Jones (although he's not likely to fall that far); Knight; Antowain Smith.

Softball: Oregon is hitting better recently

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Oregon has been hitting better in recent games, but it has been the fielding that has been a major downfall. The Ducks are allowing opponents to score at key periods in the game. Last week Cook only gave up one earned run against the No. 2 team in the nation, Arizona, but the Wildcats scored four unearned.

"We've had trouble on the left side," Gamez said. "Jill Robinson [shortstop] had a tough start. She's gotten down on herself a little bit because she's struggled, but needless to say, she's a great player and sooner or later she's going to break out of it and start playing good defense."

Third baseman Jill Martinez switched with Robinson against Arizona State; and Gamez said Martinez will get the start at

shortstop against the Beavers, and Robinson will start at third.

At the plate the Ducks are starting to come into their own with five batters hitting over .300. Robinson is ranked sixth in the Pac-10 in doubles, while Lindsey Welch is third in triples. Three Ducks are in the top 10 in home runs. Heather Holte is fourth with nine, Cook is seventh and Welch is 10th with five.

Melisa Lemke has been hot in her last four games, batting .385 against the Arizona schools, including three doubles. Lemke has seven doubles on the season and is also sharing the team lead in stolen bases with eight.

The Ducks will follow up the Oregon State doubleheader with a game against Simon Fraser at home on Monday. That game begins at 2 p.m.

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