

Oregon left behind in fifth place after second round

■ GOLF:
Oregon's chances are getting thin for a Pac-10 Conference Championship

By Ryan Halvorsen
Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's golf team didn't really play much worse, but the rest of the pack played a lot better as the Ducks fell one spot in the standings at the Pacific-10 Conference Women's Golf Championships in Tacoma, Wash., Tuesday.

The Ducks shot a 302, only four shots off their opening-day total of 298, and that allowed UCLA to go storming by into fourth place. The Bruins shot a second-round score of 288, tying them with Arizona State for the best round of the tournament, to push the Ducks into fifth place.

Oregon's Paula Patterson moved up in the individual standings, shooting a one-under

par 72 and moving into a tie for 13th place. Patterson shot a 76 on the first day, making her two-round total 148.

Fellow Duck Karen Bristow did just the opposite of Patterson, carding a 72 on the first day and a 76 on the second. She is tied with Patterson at 13th.

Kylie Wilson is four strokes behind Patterson and Bristow after shooting a 77 Tuesday to go with her 75 in the first round. Her total of 152 was good enough for a tie for 20th.

Pam Sowden is tied for 34th place, improving her first-round 79 by two strokes for a total of 156. Anika Heuser is tied for 37th,

one shot behind Sowden, falling off of her opening-round 75 with a second-round score of 82.

Arizona State maintained its lead on the top of the standings, shooting a 288 for a two-round total of 578. Arizona is four shots back in second place after a second-round 290. Stanford remained in third with 586.

USC, Washington, California, Oregon State and Washington State are sixth through 10th, respectively.

Stanford's Mhairi McKay widened her lead in the individual race, shooting a four-under par 69, making her nine under for two rounds.

Competition wraps up today with the final 18 holes.

WOMEN'S GOLF

■ OREGON:
Fifth place after second round 302

■ TOP DUCKS:
Paula Patterson and Karen Bristow, tie 13th
Kylie Wilson, tie 20th

■ TOP INDIVIDUAL:
Stanford's Mhairi McKay at nine-under par

Shaq's trash-talking, it's playoff time

Sources say that Portland Trailblazer head coach P.J. Carlesimo will be fired before Friday's game vs. the Los Angeles Lakers.

Just kidding. Not that P.J. would mind the rumor.

After reports surfaced last month that Carlesimo would be fired, the Blazers went on a 20-5 season-ending run. Translate that over a full season and that's over 60 wins.

The Blazers will make it past the first round. They have demonstrated the ability to win the close ones against the Lakers by winning 3-of-4 by four points. Their only loss to L.A. was a one-point decision in overtime at the Forum.

Another good sign is that Bill Walton even had some good things to say about the Blazers on the NBC telecast last Sunday.

This year has the most promise for Portland since the 1992 playoffs.

Since their loss to Chicago in 1992, Portland has retooled almost entirely, with the lone exception being Clifford Robinson.

Robinson's play and veteran leadership will be critical to the Blazers' success. Did I say veteran leadership and Robinson in the same sentence?

Yes. I was serious because Robinson has pulled this team together and helped them less offensively this year, but probably more important is the defense and the intangibles he has brought.

Robinson's contract is up at the end of the playoffs, and he hasn't looked like a player trying to command big money from another team.

Isaiah Rider's ability to get himself to practice on time will be a big factor in the first round. Eddie Jones can't stop Rider, he can only hope that Rider will do something stupid off the court.

Shaquille O'Neal has started the trash talking.

O'Neal told the The Oregonian in Tuesday's edition that the Lakers have only

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OREGON SOFTBALL



Oregon's Jennie Cook will likely start on the mound today at Washington. Against Simon Fraser Monday, Cook gave up 10 hits that led to four runs.

MICHAEL CRISP/Emerald

Ducks have something to prove to UW

■ SOFTBALL: *The Ducks look to get their third straight win in Seattle Wednesday*

By Ryan Halvorsen
Sports Reporter

The Oregon softball team will have its hands full as it takes on Washington in a Pacific-10 Conference doubleheader in Seattle today.

The No. 6 Huskies are 31-10 overall this season and 5-4 in the Pac-10, with conference losses coming at the hands of top-10 opponents Arizona, Arizona State and UCLA.

Washington split its series with Arizona State and No. 3 UCLA most recently, before sweeping California and Stanford last weekend.

The Ducks (16-23-1 overall, 3-7 Pac-10) haven't beaten the Huskies since 1994 when the two teams split home and road doubleheaders. Washington leads the overall series 11-4.

"It's going to be tough up there," Oregon head coach Rick Gamez said. "Playing up there is always tough. But we're going to go up there, and we're going to battle and play two hard ball games and see what happens."

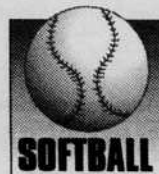
The Ducks are coming off a less-than-impressive showing against NAIA Division II Simon Fraser Monday. Oregon came back late in both games to steal wins.

Was it a wake up call for the Ducks before they head up into the Huskies' den?

"No, not really," Gamez said. "We knew that [Simon Fraser] was going to be scrappy, and we also know that Washington can be tough."

"They're coming off of three good

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OPINION



Ben Kwasey

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IN SPORTS

UO Wrestling

Scott Norton was awarded the Howard Wicklund Trophy after being named the team's outstanding wrestler at the annual awards banquet Sunday afternoon. The senior concluded the 1996-97 season with a 35-4 record.

ABL

SEATTLE (AP) — Stanford basketball star Kate Starbird signed a three-year contract with the Seattle Reign of the American Basketball League. Starbird, 21, was the winner of the 1997 Naismith Award as the nation's top college women's player.

MLB

SEATTLE (AP) — The Mariners have loaned another \$10 million to the project to build the team a new baseball stadium. The loan announced Monday will keep construction on track through May, and comes after the team loaned \$5 million last month.

Hockey

MOSCOW (AP) — Valentin Sych, president of Russia's Hockey Federation, was shot and killed outside his country house Tuesday in an apparent contract killing. Gunmen opened fire on Sych as he and his wife prepared to get into their car.

MLB

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The San Diego Padres ended their festering, three-month association with Hideki Irabu on Tuesday by selling his negotiating rights to the New York Yankees for \$3 million.