

Ducks can't move up, but finish strong at Pac-10s

■ GOLF:
Three Oregon players were named to the Pac-10 All-Conference team for their strong performances during the year.

By Ryan Halvorsen
Sports Reporter

The Oregon women's golf team maintained its consistent play and was rewarded with fifth place at the Pacific-10 Conference Women's Golf Championships in Tacoma, Wash., Wednesday.

The No. 12 Ducks shot a final round of 301, the second best round of the day, to finish the three-day tournament with a total of 901.

Paula Patterson led the way once again for the Ducks, shooting an even-par 73 to push her three-day total to 221, just two over par. Patterson finished in a tie for ninth place, finishing in the top ten in every tournament she played in this year.

She finished the regular season ranked No. 27. The Pac-10 honored her after the tournament with first-team all-conference honors.

Karen Bristow, Kylie Wilson and Pam Sowden all finished in the top 20 for the Ducks. Bristow shot a final-round 78 for a total of 226, placing her 17th, Wilson shot a 76 on the last day for a score of 228, good enough for a tie for 18th and Sowden was two shots behind Wilson as she shot a final-round 74, tying her for 20th.

The final Duck participant Anika Heuser wasn't far behind, finishing in 33rd place

with a three round total of 236.

The Pac-10 also rewarded Wilson and Heuser for their excellent seasons, naming them to the honorable mention all-conference team.

Arizona came back strong to win the team title, shooting a final round and tournament low 285 for a three-day total of 867, 15 shots ahead of second place Arizona State. UCLA moved up to third place in the final round, finishing with 882, 10 shots ahead of Stanford. USC, Washington, Oregon State, California and Washington State took sixth through 10th place respectively.

Oregon will play one more tournament before the West Regionals, the Northwest Challenge, April 28, in Portland.

WOMEN'S GOLF

■ OREGON:
Finished in fifth place after final round 301

■ TOP DUCKS:
Paula Patterson, tie ninth;
Karen Bristow, 17th

■ TEAM TITLE:
Arizona

■ INDIVIDUAL:
Mhairi McKay, Stanford



Ducks take the courts at Pac-10s

■ TENNIS: Ducks Alina Wygonowska and Dougal Williams lead their respective teams into the Pac-10 Championships

By Ben Kwasney and Alex Pond
Sports Reporters

The Oregon men's and women's tennis teams will be in Ojai, Calif. today through Sunday competing in the Pacific-10 Conference Individual Championships.

The women are sure to get more respect this year than ever before.

For the first time in school history, the Ducks (7-10) moved into the national rankings at the No. 51 spot this season.

"I think we also feel that as a program Oregon hasn't gotten as much respect as we should have," Ali Napier said.

Oregon head coach Jack Griffin said singles player Alina

Wygonowska and the doubles team of Shanelle Kaneshiro and Allison Sosnow have a legitimate chance to earn berths to the NCAA Championships.

"It's a big event for each individual player," Griffin said. "I think for the rest of the team it's a chance really to prove ourselves a little bit more."

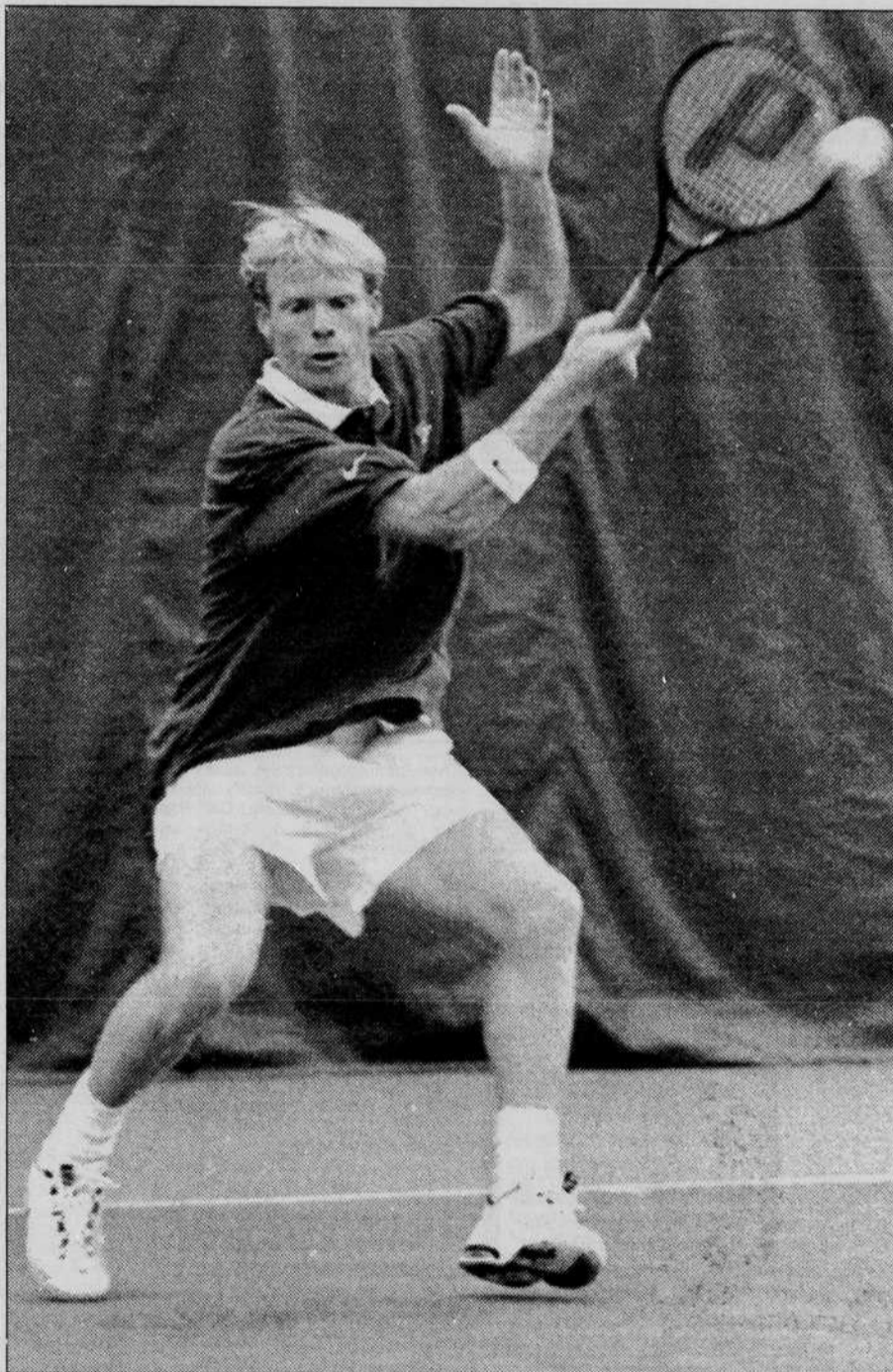
Wygonowska, Napier and Andrea Petrovic will be Oregon's entrants in the top draw of the singles tournament. Kaneshiro and Sosnow will be in the top draw of the doubles tournament.

"Allison and I have a good chance of winning a couple rounds," Kaneshiro said.

The doubles team finished the season No. 45 in the nation, but slipped from its No. 34 ranking earlier in the year.

As Oregon's No. 1 singles player, Wygonowska finished the season with a 6-13 record. Petrovic played in the No. 2 spot for Oregon most of the season and compiled an 8-11 record.

Last year the Ducks came away empty-handed, as they were unable to claim a win at the tournament.



MATT GARTON/Emerald

Oregon's No. 1 singles player Dougal Williams will lead the Ducks into the Pacific-10 Conference Championships today in California.

This year, NBA playoffs not a one-team race

Finally. The long 82-game marathon called the NBA regular season has ended, and it's time to get down to business.

Now, let's take a look at the four first-round series that begin tonight.

Western Conference

Utah (63-18) vs. L.A. Clippers (36-46)
Why waste words on this series? Utah was the best team in the West by far this season. The Clippers were a pretty bad team in a weak conference top to bottom and qualified only because each conference has to take eight teams.

Jazz in three.
Houston (57-25) vs. Minnesota (40-42)

Charles Barkley, Hakeem Olajuwon and Clyde Drexler are finally healthy at the same time and the T-Wolves are simply overmatched. The Wolves are a young team on the rise, but this season they will have to be content with making the playoffs for the first time and seeing what it takes to compete with the big boys. The experience could pay off down the road. And they will be back.

Rockets in three.

Eastern Conference

Miami (61-21) vs. Orlando (45-37)
This is an intriguing all-Florida match up. Anfernee Hardaway vs. Tim Hardaway and Alonzo Mourning vs. Rony Seikaly will be the key head-to-head match-ups. While the Hardaways may be even, Mourning has the advantage over Seikaly.

However, Orlando is a very good 45-win team and matches up pretty evenly in talent. The real advantage here is Heat head coach Pat Riley. This guy is truly amazing, turning a terrible team into a true championship contender in just two seasons. He will scratch, claw and will his guys to win no matter what the cost. He will once again come through in this series.

Heat in four.

New York (57-25) vs. Charlotte (54-28)
I love this series. Next to Portland-L.A. this could be the most intense, physical and evenly matched series of them all.

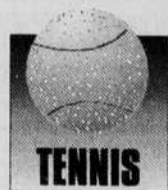
The Knicks hate the Hornets. The Hornets hate the Knicks. There are even rumors that Charlotte tanked Sunday's game against Milwaukee so it could face New York in the first round. I doubt that is true, but the Hornets are pretty happy with their pairing.

Anthony Mason is bubbling with excitement.

OPINION



Alex Pond



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UO Softball

The Ducks dropped two games to sixth-ranked Washington in Seattle Wednesday. Oregon was shut out 5-0 in a rain-delayed first game and only managed four hits against Husky pitcher Jennifer Spediacci. Washington won the second game 6-0, giving Oregon's Maegan Christie her second loss of the season.

UO Football

Former Oregon outside linebacker Derrick Barnes was signed by the Houston Oilers to a free-agent contract Wednesday. Barnes is the fifth former Duck to be picked up by an NFL team. Former Ducks Paul Wiggins, Kenny Wheaton and Tony Graziani were all drafted last weekend. Josh Wilcox was picked up Sunday as a free agent.

UO Basketball

The Far West Classic, an Oregon-Oregon State men's basketball staple for 40 years, was cancelled because of budget and scheduling problems, newspaper reports indicated Wednesday. Oregon won the 1996 version of the Classic. The event has struggled to find a sponsor in recent years.