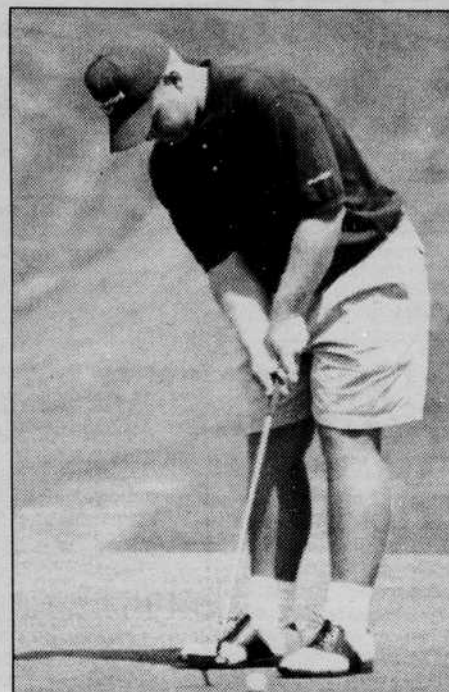


PAC-10 CHAMPIONSHIPS

"There are some teams here that are phenomenal."

Derek Croskrey
Oregon golfer



Oregon State's Marty James (left) punches one out of the sand trap. James shot a two-round total of 147 for the Beavers. Joel Kribel (above) putts his way into contention for the lead. Kribel finished the day at 142, seven strokes off the lead.

Arizona, ASU and USC all on Ducks' heels

■ **PAC-10:** USC's Chad Wright is tearing up the course for the individual lead at the Pac-10 tourney

By Ryan Halvorsen
Sports Reporter

Arizona State, Arizona and USC are probably pretty surprised that they are trailing by three strokes, but they probably expected to be in about the same position after two rounds of play at the Pacific-10 Men's Golf Championship at the Eugene Country Club Monday.

The Sun Devils, Wildcats and Trojans are all tied for second place with two-round totals of 725.

Arizona State lost the most ground after shooting an opening-round 356 only to be followed up with a second-round 369. Arizona and USC, on the other hand, both improved on first-round scores, Arizona shooting a 365 and following up with 360 and USC shooting rounds of 363 and 362.

Both Stanford and Oregon State aren't far behind in the team standings either, finishing fifth and sixth respectively. Stanford got strong individual rounds from Conrad Ray, Joel Kribel and Dusty Brett to stay within six shots of the leader, Oregon. Oregon State, led by Jeff Richardson and Charles Kingsbaker is sixth with 733 ahead of UCLA with a 736, California with 737, Washington with 745 and Washington State with 771.



USC's Chad Wright had an extraordinary day, finishing at nine-under par. Wright, who has already won one tournament, the Oregon Duck Invitational, at the Eugene Country Club this year shot an opening round 68 followed up in the afternoon with a 67.

Wright's playing partner for the day, B.J. Schlagerhauf, best described the kind of round that Wright was playing when a fan on the 18th green congratulated him on his

birdie.

"That's his sixth one this round," Schlagerhauf said after the pair had just completed nine holes.

Wright just waved to the crowd.

Ray of Stanford tried to keep Wright from running away with the lead as he shot rounds of 71 and 70 to stay within six shots in second. Four players are tied for third, one shot behind Ray. Oregon's Ben Crane, Stanford's Joel Kribel, who shot rounds of 73 and 69, Oregon State's Jeff Richardson, who had rounds of 74 and 68, and Brandon DiTullio of UCLA with a 75 and a 67, the only player that equaled Wright's tournament-low round.

"There are some teams here that are just phenomenal," Oregon's Derek Croskrey said about the level of competition that was out on Monday.

Chris Hanell, the No. 2 player in the nation, found himself back in the pack after two rounds, finishing in a tie for

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Oregon: Ducks using home course to their advantage

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by Oregon and Arizona State took a big fall in the second round. The Ducks shot a 364 for a two-round total of 722, while Arizona State dropped off with a second-round score of 369 for a total of 725.

In the second round it was Crane that led the charge, shooting a 70 for a two-round total of 142. Croskrey slowed up a little, shooting one-over par to make his total 143. After all of the scores were tallied Crane was sitting in a tie for third place and Croskrey was tied for seventh.

"I've been playing pretty consistently lately," Crane said. "Just in the last week or so, I've started to hit the ball really well. It could have been a lot better though. I knocked the ball inside ten feet a number of times, especially in the second round, but I didn't capitalize. I feel like I'm hitting the ball as good as I ever have, so that's exciting."

Crane said that he played five under on the par-five holes and those were what gave him the boost to make a run at the lead.

"I stayed patient and waited for the par fives to come and made my move at that time," Crane said.

Barney played two solid

rounds of golf for Oregon, finishing the day at one-over par with a second round 73 for a total of 145. Lavoie started out the day well, but had a disappointing second round, shooting a 77 to give him a two-round total of 149 after shooting par in the morning session.

"I struggled in the second round," Lavoie said. "Toward the end of the first round I started losing my swing and it took a while to get it back. It's frustrating when you play solid for 14 holes and it's just four that kill you."

Astorquia struggled in the second round as well, shooting six-over par to finish the day at 150. Cone also finished with a 150, but he turned it around in the second round, shooting a 71 to finish on a good note.

So is it home-course advantage that brought Oregon to the top of the crop at the Pac-10 Championship? Maybe, according to Nosler.

"I think in athletics any time you play at home there's going to be a home-court advantage," Nosler said. "I don't think it's quite the same as the Trailblazers playing at the Rose Garden. This is a golf course and it's pretty straight forward, there's nothing hidden."



Jeff Barney (above) lines up one of his putts on his way to a two-round total of 145, ten strokes off the pace. Chris Cone (left) takes his shot on one of the speedy greens at the Eugene Country Club. Cone was the Ducks' high scorer with a first-day total of 150.

Photos by
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