

PAC-10 CHAMPIONSHIPS

ASU captures lead by 11 strokes

■ **PAC-10:** Ducks can't hold off defending champs for long

By Ryan Halvorsen
Sports Reporter

Arizona State finally woke up and realized it was the defending national champions and left the Pacific-10 Conference Men's Golf Championship field in the dust Tuesday.

The Sun Devils shot eight-under par on the day to take the lead back from Oregon, which had the second-place score 11 shots back.

Scott Johnson led the Sun Devils' comeback with a scorching round of 67 to put himself in second place, three shots back of the leader, USC's Chad Wright.

Chris Hanell also helped out Arizona State with a third-round 69, which moved him up to fourth place. Greg Padilla and Jonas Runnquist are both sitting in a tie for 18th for the Sun Devils.

Wright shot an even-par 72 to make his three-round total 207, nine shots under par.

"I'm pleased," Wright said. "Every tournament you're going to have a round where you have to grind it out. When you can shoot even par, that's when you give yourself a chance to win. That's all I wanted to do was give myself a chance to win."

Wright doesn't plan on changing his game plan that has gotten him this far.

"I don't want to change things after the way I played," Wright said. "I just want to keep the same mind set throughout the full 72 holes."

Stanford's Joel Kribel continued to play solid, finishing the day in third place after shooting a 69. His three-round total is a four-under par 212.

Arizona is sitting in third place overall, still three shots behind Oregon. USC is in fourth and Stanford is fifth. California, UCLA, Washington, Oregon State and Washington State round out sixth through tenth.

Play continues today at the Eugene Country Club starting at 8 a.m. Oregon will be paired with Arizona State in the final round and should tee off at 9:24 a.m.



Arizona State's Brad Cannon tees off at the Pac-10 Men's Golf Championship. Cannon helped the Sun Devils take the overall lead.

Golf: Ducks still optimistic after Day 2

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him a three-round total of 223.

"I got the best out of the way I played," Lavoie said. "I felt like I shot an 85, but I got it in the hole."

One of the more surprising turn of events for the Ducks has been the sub-par performances of veterans J.J. Astorquia and Chris Cone. Cone shot a third-round 77 to make his total 227, and Astorquia shot an 81 in the third round to put him at 231.

"I didn't really putt that bad yesterday," Astorquia said. "Today I missed a lot of short ones, and I just didn't get any momentum. I had a lot of bad things happen, so hopefully I'll have one of those rounds [today] where I can putt really well and make everything. I'm due."

Cone kept an optimistic attitude as well.

"It was a little bit of a struggle," Cone said. "Thank God for my teammates, we still have a chance to win. There's always tomorrow."

Although the Ducks did give up 14 strokes to the defending national champs, they are still ahead of Arizona and USC.

Oregon team members are still optimistic; there is one last chance to make a run at the championship if they can play well.

"You can't shoot eight over and not get passed by some of the best teams in the country," Cone said. "This is the best golf conference in the country, and you've got to expect that if you don't bring your 'A' game to the tournament, you're going to get lapped."

The Ducks are now sitting at eight-over par as a team, while Arizona State is at three under.

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