

PAC-10 GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

ASU holds off Ducks for title

"[Considering] the level of competition we just played in and finished this tournament in, second place is nothing to be embarrassed about."

Steve Nosler
Oregon head golf coach



Arizona State's Scott Johnson saved his best for last as he won his first tournament of the season Wednesday at the Pac-10 Championships with an overall score of 278.

MARK McTYRE/Emerald

■ **OREGON:** Ducks can't make up any ground on ASU in final round; both teams shot a 368 for the day

By Ryan Halvorsen
Sports Reporter

The Ducks went from worst to first. Almost.

After finishing dead last in the Pacific-10 Conference Men's Golf Championship a year ago, the Ducks turned it around and almost knocked off three-time defending champion Arizona State Wednesday, but fell 11 strokes short.

Oregon was battling the Sun Devils the entire way, taking the lead away in the second round, but the defending national champions would not be denied this year.

Down by 11 strokes going into the deciding round, the six Oregon team members said one good round could make up the ground between them and the Sun Devils.

And the conversation at the 18th green among the four Oregon players who had already finished Wednesday's final round was centered around winning.

Not until Ben Crane putted out at the 18th, the second-to-last Oregon player to finish, did the Ducks realize their goal was out of reach.

"[Considering] the level of competition we just played in and finished this tournament in, second place is nothing to be embarrassed about," Oregon head coach Steve Nosler said. "I don't think ever in their minds, right up until they added the scores up and saw that we got beat, that this was their goal."

"Never in our conversations ... was 'Hey guys, let's hold on to second place.' We were trying to win."

The only round the Sun Devils really outplayed the Ducks was in the third round when they erased a three-stroke Oregon lead and took an 11-shot lead of their own.

Both Oregon and Arizona State shot a 368 in the final round. The Ducks finished 16-over-par at 1456, and Arizona State at 1445.

Ryan Lavoie brought the Ducks' hopes up as he finished strong with a 3-under-par

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PAC-10
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JOHNSON

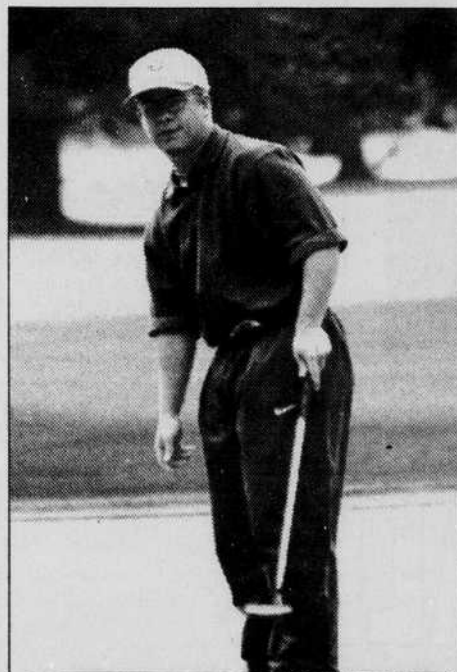
INDIVIDUAL

Johnson, ASU	278
Hanell, ASU	283
Kribel, Stan.	283
Wright, USC	284
Kingsbaker, OSU	286
Ray, Stan.	287
Croskrey, UO	289
Crane, UO	290
Four tied at 291	

TEAM

ASU	1445
Oregon	1456
USC	1464
Stanford	1473
Arizona	1479
Washington	1484
California	1484
Oregon State	1487
UCLA	1497
Wash. St.	1548

Croskrey, Crane finish in top 10; Ducks nab second



MARK McTYRE/Emerald

Derek Croskrey shot a final-round 75 to lead the Ducks with 289 overall score.

■ **GOLF:** Scott Johnson of Arizona State leads the defending national champion Sun Devils to another conference title at the Pac-10s

By Ben Kwasney
Sports Reporter

The Arizona State men's golf team did it to the rest of the Pacific-10 Conference again by claiming its fourth conference title in the last five years Wednesday at the Eugene Country Club.

The Sun Devils were led by senior Scott Johnson, who won the tournament, and senior Chris Hanell, who finished in a second-place tie.

Johnson had never won a tournament in his four-year college career, but picked the right time to fire a 10-under-par 278 to beat Hanell by five strokes in the individual competition.

"It's great," Johnson said. "I've waited a long time, and I've played well before in this event and other events."

Johnson delivered a final-round 68 to claim the victory. He put himself in contention Tuesday with a 67, which followed a disappointing 74 on the final 18 holes Monday.

The Kennewick, Wash. native said it was special to win his first tournament in front of his parents.

"It's Pac-10 and that's big in the Northwest for me coming from the Northwest," Johnson said.

Chad Wright of USC went into the final day in first place with a three-stroke advantage over Johnson, but a 7-over-par front nine opened the door for Johnson.

Johnson said he had no idea that Wright had given away the lead.

"I was just trying to play well," Johnson said. "I knew how I was playing I wasn't going to lose."

Wright regrouped after the front nine with a 2-under-par on the back nine to finish one stroke behind Hanell and Joel Kribel of Stanford, who tied Hanell for second place.

"Today just wasn't my day," Wright said. "I thought I was prepared for today, and I just went out there and hit some stupid shots."

"I really wasn't prepared for every shot. I wasn't taking my time and that can lead to double-bogeys and bogeys."

After shooting a 34 on the front nine, Hanell said he lost his focus on holes 11 through 15, but is glad his teammate could finally win a tournament.

"I'm happy to see Scott win. I wouldn't have anyone else beat me," Hanell said.

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OREGON
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Derek Croskrey	289
Ben Crane	290
Ryan Lavoie	292
Jeff Barney	292
Chris Cone	300
J.J. Astorquia	311