

NBA Playoffs
San Antonio at Phoenix
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SPORTS

Oregon Daily
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Ducks falter in final round of Pac-10s

Oregon shot a 318 in the final round to finish the tournament in eighth place with a three-day total of 928

By Tim Pyle
Sports Reporter

This was not the final round the Ducks had in mind.

The Oregon women's golf team had its worst round of the three-day Pacific-10 Championships in Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif., on Wednesday to finish eighth out of 10 teams.

The Ducks shot a 318 to end the tournament with a 64-over-par 928. Oregon finished 63 strokes behind Arizona, which won the team title for the second consecutive season.

The Wildcats shot a final-round 290 to end up one over par and defeat second-place Arizona State by 16 strokes. Arizona,

which is ranked No. 3 in the MasterCard Collegiate Golf Rankings, led the tournament from start to finish.

The Wildcats' Jenna Daniels captured the individual championship despite shooting a final-round 78. Daniels, who shot a 69 and 68 in the first two rounds, led teammate Heather Graff by seven strokes entering play Wednesday.

Daniels ended the tournament one under par and hung on to beat Graff and another teammate, Krissie Register, by three strokes.

Anika Heuser, who finished tied for

22nd, was the highest finisher for No. 9 Oregon. Heuser was tied for 11th heading into the final round but shot an 82 to finish with a 16-over-par 232.

All five of the Ducks who competed, including Heuser, struggled Wednesday. Karen Bristow's 78 was the lowest Oregon score of the final round.

Kylie Wilson completed play tied for 25th with a 233 total; Bristow shot a combined total of 234 to tie for 27th; Paula Patterson finished with a 237 to tie for 32nd; and Jerilyn White tied for 36th with a 238 combined score.

The Ducks get their first shot at redemption May 4 in Portland at the Northwest Match Play Championship.

Tournament Totals

OREGON:	
Heuser	232
INDIVIDUAL:	
Daniels	215
TEAMS:	
1. Arizona	865
2. ASU	881
3. USC	899
8. Oregon	928

Oregon seeks redemption at Pac-10s

Erwan Kergroach will face USC's Kyle Spencer in the first round of the top-flight singles

By Tim Pyle
Sports Reporter

After frustrating conference seasons that provided no team victories, the Oregon men's and women's tennis teams have a chance to garner some individual glory at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships starting today in Ojai, Calif.

Erwan Kergroach's final push to solidify a selection to the 64-player NCAA Championships in singles will highlight the men's team's (11-12, 0-7

Pac-10) action.

Kergroach (20-8), who is ranked No. 42 in the most recent Rolex Collegiate Tennis Rankings, is matched up with Southern California's Kyle Spencer in the first round of the top-flight singles draw, which consists of 32 players.

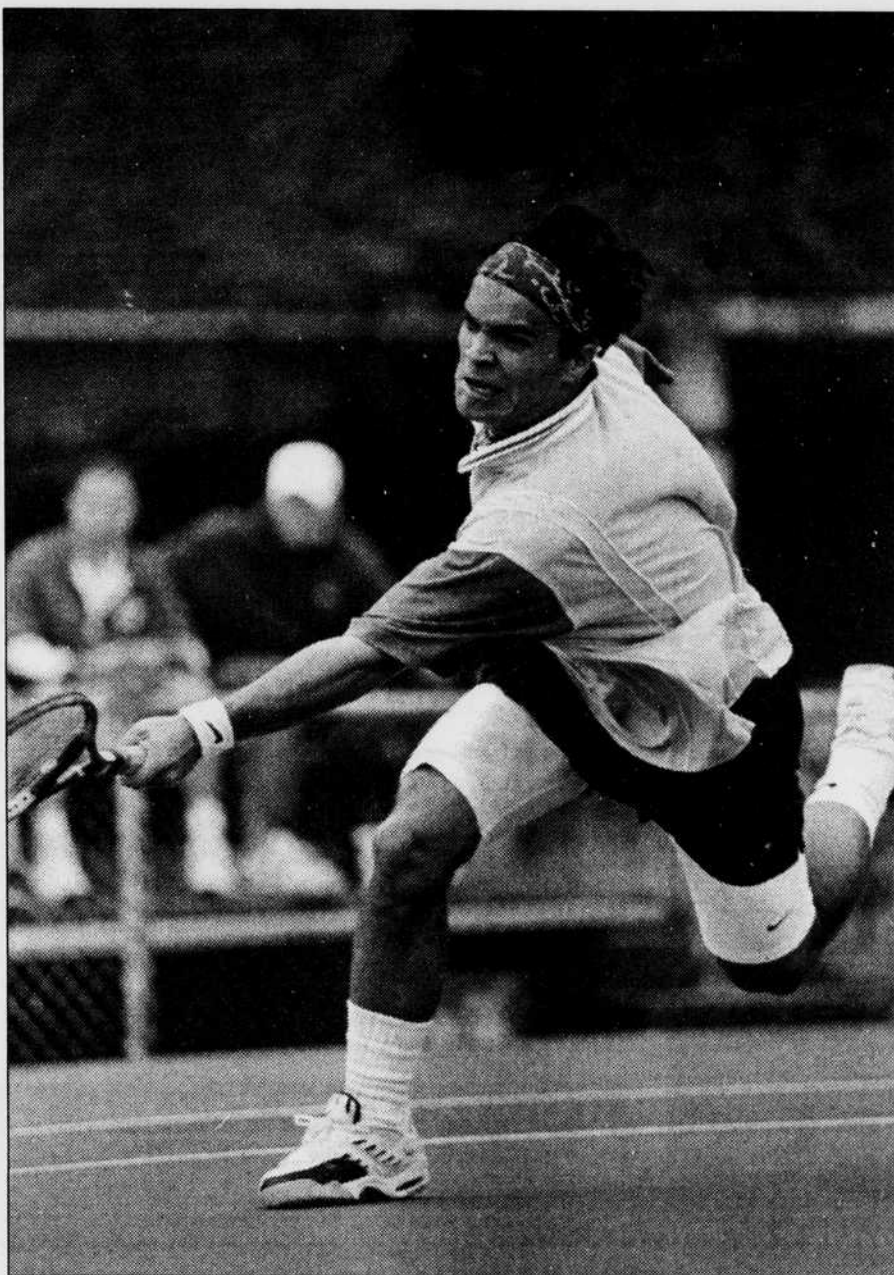
"The guy's going to put some pressure on him, which is a challenge for Erwan," Oregon head coach Chris Russell said. "That's something that he's going to have to be prepared for these next couple days, but I think he should be all right."

Oregon's Guillermo Carter (14-15), Miguel Arriaga (11-14) and Joaquin Hamdan (12-16) join Kergroach in the top draw for singles.

Three other Ducks will compete in the bottom draw.

Kergroach is also looking to secure a doubles berth in the NCAA's with teammate Carter. The tournament selects 32 doubles

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NICK MEDLEY/Emerald

Erwan Kergroach, who is ranked No. 42, leads the Ducks into the Pac-10 Championships starting today in Ojai, Calif.

Men's water polo team to test progress against OSU

The women's lacrosse team faces Colorado, Puget Sound and Montana in the PNLA tournament over the weekend

By Mirjam Swanson and Jeanette N. Diaz
Freelance Sports Reporters

Having come up just short against Oregon State in the fall, the Oregon Club Sports men's water polo team is looking to improve this time around.

"Last time we played them, they were about the same level as us," Oregon head coach Scott McCarty said. "But I think we've progressed a little further."

The Ducks will test their progress against Oregon State in a home match Friday at 4 p.m. at Willamette High School.

Following the Oregon State contest, the Ducks will head to the Clovis Masters in Fresno, Calif., on May 2 and 3.

Women's lacrosse

Looking forward to competing against teams with similar levels of experience, the Oregon Club Sports women's lacrosse team will compete in the annual PNLA tournament this weekend.

The Ducks will face Colorado, Puget Sound and Montana.

"It's a big tournament with several different teams," center Stephanie Erba said. "We'll match up pretty well with them. It'll be nice to play teams on our level rather than women who have been playing for a

long time."

The Ducks will be back in Portland on May 2 and 3 for a smaller league tournament, and they will make an appearance in a tournament at Washington on May 16 and 17.

Women's soccer

Despite a 5-1 season-opening loss, the Oregon Club Sports women's soccer team still has high hopes of finishing atop the Eugene City League.

Inexperience and lack of team chemistry proved to be disastrous for the Ducks as they got in only two weeks of practice prior to last Wednesday's loss to Tom Tech Inc. at Ascot Park.

"It just seemed like everyone was push-

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NBA playoffs will answer big questions

Well, it's here. The time of year that all those pro-hoops junkies begin craving as soon as their yearly fix ends with a world champion in June. Yup, that's right, it's NBA Playoffs time.

As usual, the playoffs are stock full of interesting themes and intriguing side stories.

Will Michael and his Bulls win their third consecutive title for the second time in eight seasons in perhaps their last stand?

Will Utah claim a championship after coming agonizingly close last season?

These questions and many more will begin to be answered today when four of the eight first-round, best-of-five series get started.

Eastern Conference

Charlotte Hornets (fourth seed) vs. Atlanta Hawks (fifth seed)

The Hornets (51-31) begin this series at home because of their one-game advantage over the Hawks (50-32) in the final regular season standings.

However, Atlanta beat Charlotte — most recently 121-104 Friday — handily in all four regular season games between these two Central Division rivals. The Hawks' average margin of victory against the Hornets was almost 17 points per game.

That success should give Atlanta the psychological advantage, at least until Charlotte proves it can beat — or at least stay close to — the Hawks.

The Hornets rely on all-star small forward Glen Rice's sweet stroke and Anthony Mason's ability to handle the ball, pass and score from the "point" forward position to produce offense.

Mookie Blaylock's sneaky steals on the perimeter and Dikembe Mutombo's finger-wagging rejections provide Atlanta with the best of both worlds on defense.

Look for the Hornets to struggle against the more experienced, better-defending Hawks.

I like Atlanta in four games.

Indiana (3) vs. Cleveland (6)

Can the Pacers (58-24) continue their fairy-tale season under likely coach of the year Larry Bird against the young Cavaliers (47-35)?

Indiana and Cleveland split their four games this season with the home team winning every game. This includes Sunday's season finale, which the Cavaliers won 96-92 at Gund Arena.

The Pacers return practically the same

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