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Crane: Junior finished 57th at NAAs

Continued from Page 11

His 73.1 scoring average leads the Ducks as do his eight top-20 finishes in 12 tournaments. Crane also owns the best tournament placing for Oregon, a tie for first at the Pacific Invitational last September, and second team All-Pacific-10 Conference-honors.

Nosler says Crane is an extremely dedicated player who has worked hard to elevate his game since joining the team in 1995.

"Ben has just made tremendous improvements," Nosler says. "He's spent a great deal of time and effort working on his swing, so he can make a consistent swing at the ball and have the feel he needs to have to excel the way he has."

The fact that Crane, a junior, has shaved more than four strokes off his freshman scoring average of 77.3 is testament to his commitment.

His short game, specifically putting, has benefited the most from countless hours of practice, Crane says.

"It's been my primary focus for a while now, and I understand how you score is by having a good short game," Crane says. "A lot of people are confused or they think that all the guys who are on tour are great ball strikers, and they're not. If you go out and watch them play,

they don't hit the ball that great but they all have a great short game."

An absence of glaring weaknesses and a strong mental approach help Crane to maintain his consistency, according to Nosler.

"The majority of the time when Ben's out there he's pretty focused, and he doesn't have a lot of other thoughts on his mind other than that particular round and that particular shot that he's working on," Nosler says.

However, Crane's feats almost benefited a team other than Oregon.

After winning the Metro League individual crown and graduating from Beaverton High School in 1994, Crane left the state to attend Baylor.

He redshirted during the 1994-95 school year and then decided to transfer home to Oregon to play with players he knew, such as Derek Croskrey and Jeff Barney, who are among his teammates now.

"I decided to come back to the Northwest and play with those guys because they had a pretty good program and guys who cared about playing well, which wasn't the case at Baylor," Crane says. "I loved the school, I didn't like the golf program."

A tie for 57th at the 1997

NCAA Championships was not the way Crane dreamed of bowing out at that most prestigious of collegiate tournaments in Lake Forest, Ill., but at least he got to make the trip.

Heading into this season's West Regional, which begins Thursday in Tempe, Ariz., Crane is hungry to obtain another chance at gobbling up the nationals field. This time, however, he plans on bringing along some friends — namely, the rest of his team.

"We all have a common goal, just to make it to nationals," Crane says. "Whatever we've got to do to make it to nationals."

Crane needs to play to the utmost of his capabilities for the Ducks to advance to the championships for the first time since 1990, Nosler says.

"You really have to look to your leaders and your low scoring-average people to continue to give you that," Nosler says. "That's certainly what I'm hoping for and probably for us to make it through the West Regional and get to the final stage of the NAAs, Ben will have to play very well."

Fortunately for Oregon, Crane has already visited the promised land once. This time he plans on bringing company along for the trip.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Davis named track athlete of the week

Oregon's Marie Davis was named the Pacific-10 Conference's outdoor track women's athlete of the week for her efforts in Saturday's dual meet at Washington.

Davis won the 1,500 meters in four minutes, 24.48 seconds and

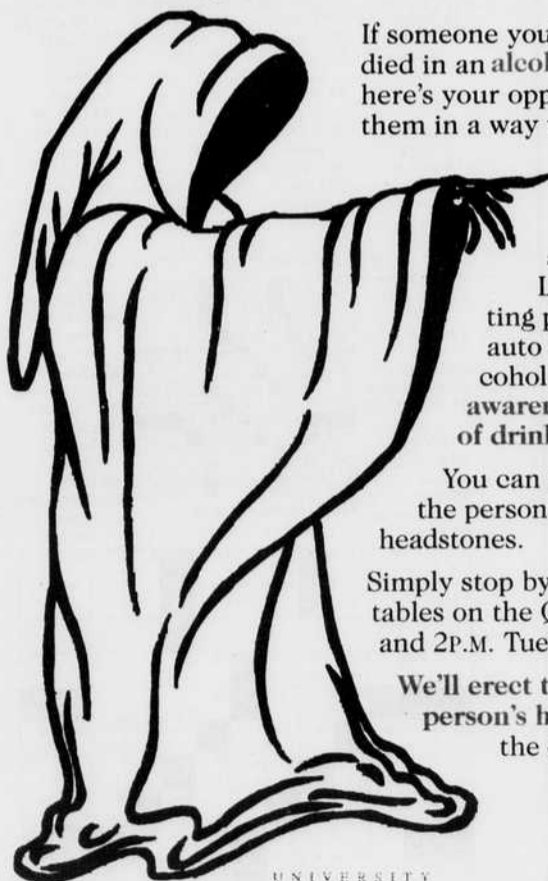
the 3,000 meters in 9:34.00 in the Ducks' loss to the Huskies. The junior from Portland currently ranks in the top 10 nationally in three events — the 1,500, the 3,000 and the 5,000 meters.

Seilala Sua of UCLA was named the women's field athlete of the week after throwing the discus 212 feet, two inches — a toss that ranks

second all-time in the Pac-10.

Patrick Nduwimana of Arizona was named the Pac-10's men's track athlete of the week after an NCAA automatic qualifying time in the 800 meters, and Mika Laiho of Arizona State was named the men's field athlete of the week after a hammer throw of 235-10 to win the Arizona Elite Classic.

Remember the People You Loved



If someone you've cared about has died in an alcohol-related crash, here's your opportunity to remember them in a way that helps other people.

Peer health educators will be erecting headstones on the Knight Library Quad representing people who've died in auto crashes because of alcohol. Our purpose is to raise awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving.

You can participate by writing the person's name on the headstones.

Simply stop by the information tables on the Quad between 10 A.M. and 2 P.M. Tuesday through Thursday.

We'll erect the headstone in that person's honor. It's your gift to the entire UO community.

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Run From the Pack

At the Annual Campus 5K Fun Run/Walk

Sponsored by the UO Peer Health Educators

Tuesday, May 19th, 5:00 P.M.
on the EMU East Lawn
(between Carson Hall and the EMU)

Everyone is Welcome! • \$2 Registration Fee

Great prizes for those who guess closest to their finishing time and free ice cream for all who participate!

Want a T-shirt, too?

A limited supply of T-shirts are available for free for the first to register. Call the Peer Health Education room at 346-4456, stop by the Peer Health office, or find us outside the Bookstore on May 18. Registration will also take place on the day of the event between 4:30 and 4:45 P.M. for \$2.



UO Alcohol Awareness Week May 18-22