

Golfers hope wins keep coming

The women's team heads to Oklahoma and the men tee off in Corvallis looking for repeat wins in play today

By Scott Pesznecker
Oregon Daily Emerald

With first-place finishes in last week's tournaments, the Oregon men's and women's golf teams resume competition today looking to make a statement.

This weekend, the women travel to the Bama Fall Preview in Tulsa, Okla., a tournament that invites the top 18 teams in the nation. The Preview takes place at the Tulsa Country Club, also the site of the NCAA Championships in November.

"It is very prestigious to be invited to this tournament," head coach Renee Baumgartner said. "Every team works very hard to be here. We'll be able to see where we are in relation to all the other schools, so it's our first real test."

For a team looking to place high in the NCAA Championships, Baumgartner said the Preview will be a great way to prepare because the Ducks will be competing on the same course with many of the teams that might qualify for the NAAs.

"If we finish in the top 10, we'll be very happy," Baumgartner said. "We don't know much about the course, so this will be a great experience to help us know where we are right now."

Senior Karen Bristow, who shot 220 during three rounds last week to win the Portland Invitational, is expected to lead the Ducks in Tulsa.

"[The Portland Invitational] was

the first tournament she's won," Baumgartner said of Bristow. "She's a solid player, and she has the best fundamentals on the team. She holds up under pressure. She leads by example on and off the course, and those student athletes are hard to find."

Each team member on the trip to Oklahoma placed in the top 10 at the Portland Invitational. Claire Hunter finished second at Portland with a 223, and Angie Rizzo finished third, shooting 228. Pam Sowden and Dawn Berry, who tied for fifth last week, qualified for this week's tournament. Jerilyn White tied for ninth last week.



"We expect [Bristow] to be one of our better players, but we don't have anyone on our team who is ranked low in the country," Baumgartner said. "We have eight solid players. All of them can shoot low. Our strength is our depth."

In order to finish in the top 10, Baumgartner said, the team must remember to stay focused on playing golf and try not to watch the scoreboard. That caused the team to shoot a combined score of 312 in the final round last week after shooting 294 and 302 in the first two.

"We are going to have fun and stay aggressive," Baumgartner said. "We're going to take it one shot at a time, add it up at the end, and hopefully we'll be one of the top teams."

The men are in Corvallis today to compete in the Nike Invitational Classic. The Ducks, who beat Stan-

ford in a playoff last week to win the Husky Invitational in Bremerton, Wash., hope for a repeat performance.

"We're going up to Corvallis to win and to play as hard as we can, and hopefully we'll be successful," head coach Steve Nosler said. "We're not just having fun driving vans around the country. We're going out there to be competitive."

Learning the course will be crucial if the men are going to win the tournament, Nosler said. Last week, the team made multiple trips to Trysting Tree Golf Club in Corvallis, where today's competition will be held.

"We don't know the course like [Oregon State] does, but any time you have local course knowledge it's good," Nosler said. "It's not like a basketball court. Every course is different, and it's good to know where the hazards are."

"We know the course, and we've been there many times. We have to keep our game solid, play good golf from the first shot we take. We need to be mentally ready and have full game preparation."

Leading the men is Ryan Lavoie, who shot 212 in three rounds of play at the Husky Invitational to win second-place honors. Lavoie has posted the Ducks' lowest individual score in both of their tournaments this season.

Also making the trip will be Andrew Tredway, who finished seventh last week, shooting 216, and Adrian Burtner, who played a critical role in Bremerton after missing the team's first tournament. Ben Crane and Derek Croskrey will round out the Ducks' competitors this weekend.

Padres pummel Astros 6-1, head for NL championship

The Big Unit's World Series hopes are dashed as San Diego wins the division series 3-1

By Bernie Wilson
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The San Diego Padres are going back to the NL championship series after a 14-year absence, thanks in large part to new hero Jim Leyritz.

And the Big Unit is not going to make it to the World Series as many thought, because the Padres beat Randy Johnson and the Houston Astros 6-1 Sunday night to clinch the tense division series three games to one.

With the crowd of 64,898 hanging on every pitch, Leyritz hit his third homer in as many games and 27-year-old Sterling Hitchcock was dominating in his first playoff start, using a devastating split-fingered fastball to strike out 11 in six innings.

Johnson lost his fifth straight decision in the post-season, tying a major league record. He left for a pinch-hitter in the seventh, and reliever Jay Powell gave up pinch-hitter John Vander Wal's two-run triple and Wally Joyner's two-run homer in the eighth.

"Everybody counted us out," Hitchcock said. "They

said we couldn't beat Johnson twice in a five-game series. Well, we beat him twice in a four-game series. These guys never let up."

Trevor Hoffman closed out the ninth for the Padres, who move on to face the Atlanta Braves in the NL championship series starting Wednesday night at Turner Field. Atlanta won five of nine from the Padres this year.

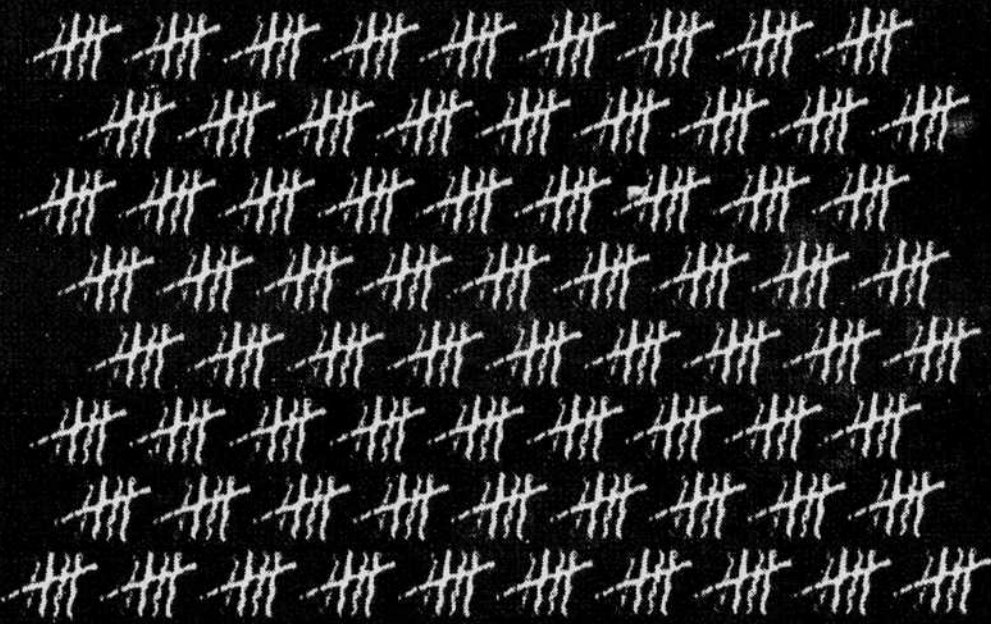
This is the first time the Padres have been this far since 1984, when they beat the Chicago Cubs in the NLCS only to lose the World Series 4-1 to Detroit.

Tony Gwynn, 38, is the only player left from that Padres team, although Bruce Bochy is the manager and Tim Flannery the third base coach.

The Astros, who led the NL in scoring this season but managed just eight runs in this series, go home frustrated for a second straight year, having been swept by Atlanta in the first round in 1997. Houston has been in five postseason series, and lost all of them.

Ricky Gutierrez kneeled in the on-deck circle for a few minutes after the game ended, sending the Padres bursting out of the dugout and fireworks bursting overhead. Craig Biggio sat in the dugout, staring at the scene.

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