

Tuesday
April 27, 1999

Oregon Emerald

SPORTS

Best Bet
NCAA Basketball
Utah vs. Seattle
7:30 p.m., TNT



Oregon second to only ASU in Pac-10s

Ryan Lavoie
and Andrew
Treadway,
who are tied
for fourth
individually,
lead the No. 21
Ducks into
today's second
round

By Brett Williams
for the Emerald

In a tournament loaded with some of the best golf teams in the NCAA, Oregon rose above the competition to place second after the first two rounds of the Pacific-10 Conference Championships yesterday at Broadmoor Country Club in Seattle.

Oregon head coach Steve Nosler brought his team mentally prepared for the three-day tournament.

"The mental aspect of our players today was as strong as I've ever seen," said Nosler, who watched his team shoot a 709, just 12 shots off leader and four-time defending Pac-10 champ Arizona State. "Their thought process was real solid, which was good because you absolutely cannot have the ball get above the green."

Players saw disaster strike when chips and

other shots failed to land on or below the green, often causing an array of two and three putts. Oregon, however, found ways to avoid these mistakes and saw two of its players tied for fourth place at the conclusion of the first two rounds. Ryan Lavoie and Andrew Treadway shot a 139 each to lead the Ducks. Oregon's Derek Croskrey is currently tied for 10th place with a score of 142 and Adrian Burtner trails him by two strokes, good enough for a 16th place after the first day.

Oregon knows of the talent at Arizona State, who they faced less than two weeks ago at the ASU Thunderbird Classic in Tempe.

"We shot 12 under in the final round down there and still couldn't gain any ground on them. Being behind them is no discredit; teams like Washington and UCLA behind us are some of the better teams in the nation," said Nosler.

The Sun Devils were propelled to the top of the team standings by the play of Paul Casey and Eugene native Jeff Quinney. Casey is in first place with a score of 133, and Quinney, who broke PGA Tour star Phil Mickelson's team record at the Thunderbird Classic, is in seventh place with a score of 140.

Stanford was unable to finish higher than sixth, despite the dazzling play of Joel Kribel, who shot a 134 and is in second place.

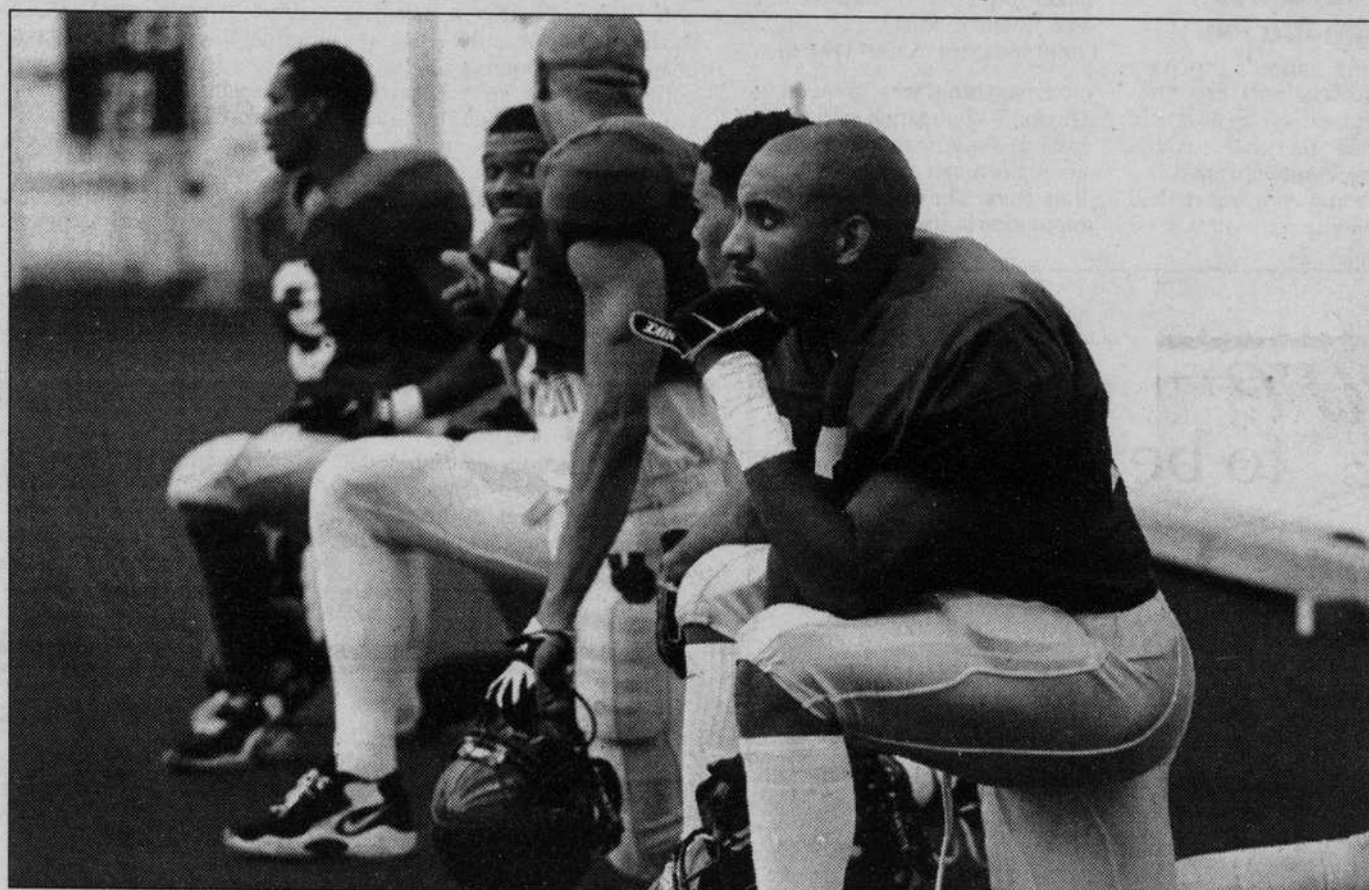
"Kribel may be the best player in the nation. The Pac-10 is just so loaded this year," Nosler said.

Nosler knows crunch time will be the next few days, when he sees how his Ducks will finish in the talent-laden tournament.

"On a golf course like this, anyone's scores could balloon up," Nosler said. "We're only halfway through. The biggest part is yet to come."



NOSLER



Nick Medley/Emerald

Brian Johnson and other members of the Duck secondary wait their turn during practice Monday afternoon at the Moshofsky Center.

Secondary first on list of UO concerns

Rashad
Bauman's
severe knee
injury has
the Oregon
football
team's
secondary
scrambling

By Joel Hood
for the Emerald

He was the one constant on a defense that ... well, desperately needed one last season.

As the Oregon defense adjusted to a new coach, a new scheme and a new identity in 1998, Rashad Bauman helped solidify the Ducks' right cornerback position by tallying 44 tackles and a team-high three interceptions.

After taking over the starting cornerback role in only the second game of his freshman season, the Phoenix native has started 23 games in a row, tying safety Brandon McLemore for the longest such streak during that period.

That streak will come to an end in the Ducks' season opener on Sept. 4 when Bauman will remain sidelined with the severe knee injury he suffered earlier this spring.

As a result, the Oregon defense is

once again undergoing a transition.

The Ducks return seven starters on a defense that ranked fifth overall in the Pacific-10 Conference last season. But Oregon's secondary, which lost veteran cornerback Eric Edwards to graduation, now could be a cause of concern for the Ducks' new defensive coordinator, Nick Aliotti.

Aliotti, the architect of Oregon's punishing Gang Green defense in 1994, returns to the Ducks after four years away from the program with the NFL's St. Louis Rams and the UCLA Bruins.

Aliotti said this defense probably won't remind Oregon fans of the Gang Green defense that spearheaded the Ducks' Rose Bowl and Cotton Bowl berths in 1994 and 1995. But Aliotti said he likes the "aggressiveness" he has seen from his unit this spring.

"We've done some nice things, and we've played together as a

team," Aliotti said. "But somebody has got to step up to take [Bauman's] place. It will probably take a total group effort."

McLemore and senior Justin Wilcox will likely command the free safety position as they did all of last season. Senior Michael Fletcher, who ranked fourth on the team in total tackles a season ago, will again occupy the rover position opposite McLemore or Wilcox.

Yet the experience and depth in the secondary is confined to the safety positions. Tamoni Joiner returns as the Ducks' most experienced coverman at the left cornerback position. The 5-foot-10, 183-pound junior played in all 12 games last season, but he has yet to start a game at the collegiate level.

The right cornerback position

Turn to FOOTBALL, Page 8

Injuries to big-time players bad for baseball

"A Rod's Luscious Lips" is in last place. Not even close to "Kerry Wood's Brown Fingers." My fantasy baseball team — named after one of the greatest shortstops ever — is hurting.

Literally.

I remember the excitement I felt when I learned that I had the first pick in the draft.

It was a no-brainer: Alex Rodriguez of the Seattle Mariners. Rodriguez had 40 home runs and 40 stolen bases last season. Critics even talked about him going 50-50 this season.

But things weren't going as planned. Rodriguez didn't get a single hit before going on the disabled list with a knee injury. So the bulletin board began to fill up — "Sorry about your pretty boy," or "That's too bad about ARod."

Not to worry, I thought, this isn't a season-ending injury, and when he comes back, my team is going to rocket to the top. After all, I've got other power hitters. Barry Bonds. Mo Vaughn. Larry Walker.

Yeah, a lot of help I've gotten from them. My star-studded team couldn't catch a break if it was lobbed to them. Walker returned to action last week, and I thought things were finally starting to look a little brighter.

Nope. Bonds is out for 10 weeks with an elbow injury. That one went beyond my fantasy baseball team. The Giants are my team, and they were cruising, possibly headed for the playoffs where they could embarrass the Dodgers' millionaire pitching staff.

Speaking of pitching staffs, I was beginning to realize that I was going to have to rely on mine. It didn't seem all that bad — Chan Ho Park, Tom Glavine, Mike Mussina.

That turned out to be the joke of all jokes. Earlier this season, one of my fellow fantasy competitors begged for Park, and I repeatedly denied the trade. Park was going to be one of my aces. Well, he's not on the disabled list, but he might as well be.

Two grand slams in one inning? "Nice pitcher," they wrote.

Opinion



Allison
Ross

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