

# Duck women crave for more

■ Oregon looks ahead to a promising spring schedule after enduring an up-and-down fall season

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The best is yet to come. Renee Baumgartner knows her No. 21 Oregon women's golf team "has always been a spring team." That's why she shows no signs of doubt, although her team completed its fall schedule in Jekyll-and-Hyde fashion. "We have the whole package," Baumgartner said. "They're unbelievably talented and want to be one of the best teams in the country. We just need to trust it and really believe in ourselves." There was the encouraging season-opening seventh-place finish at the NCAA Fall Preview on Sept. 13-15 in a field that included the top-21 teams in the country. "It was our first tournament of the year, and we went out there and made a statement," Baumgartner said. "It was a very critical tournament for us to participate in and gave us great confidence."

But then came the disappointing Oregon Invitational, in which the Ducks let California overtake them on their home course during the final day to win the tournament.

A mere four days later, there Oregon was, breaking records and winning the Fall Nittany Lion Invitational with a three-round school-record total of 885. Senior Pam Sowden led the team with a six-under-par 210, which

included tying the school mark for a low round with a 68.

"The highlight of the fall was definitely Penn State," Baumgartner said. "The team chemistry was incredible, and all of the girls played so tough. The players had never played there before and that was exciting, and they tend to play better when they're excited."

The joy didn't last long as the Ducks faltered in the Stanford Invitational on Oct. 22-24, finishing tied for 16th out of 18 teams. They ended their fall in better shape at the Hawaii Fall Golf Classic on Nov. 9-10, but even a second-place finish left Oregon craving for more.



"Personally, we should have won that tournament," Baumgartner said. "We only lost by six shots to UCLA, and we shot a 316 on that last day compared to our average round of 305. Maybe it was another sign to us saying that we shouldn't rest on our laurels and to capitalize on our time off that we have to improve."

The Ducks return to action on Feb. 21 when they take part in the Arizona Wildcat Invitational. They have reason to be optimistic for a successful spring as two major tournaments are played in their own backyard.

Oregon gets to host the Pacific-10 Championships on April 24-26 at the Eugene Country Club and the NCAA Championships are in Sunriver on May 24-27, where the Ducks already played

## Fall Results

- NCAA Fall Preview Tie 7th place
- Oregon Invitational 2nd (Sowden tie 5th)
- Fall Nittany Lion Invitational 1st (Sowden 1st)
- Stanford Invitational Tie 16th
- Hawaii Fall Golf Classic 2nd (Sowden, Rizzo tie 4th)

at the Fall Preview.

"It's going to be an exciting time with us having the home-court advantage," Baumgartner said. "We're going to play that much better because we'll have our fans cheering us on, and our five seniors will do anything they can to go out with a bang."

*"I truly believe, when all is said and done, we're going to rise to the top."*

Renee Baumgartner  
Women's golf coach

Those seniors are Anika Heuser, Claire Hunter, Angie Rizzo, Kylie Wilson and Sowden. Baumgartner, who is expecting her second child in March, will step down as coach after this season and feels blessed to have such a great group.

"I truly believe, when all is said and done, we're going to rise to the top," Baumgartner said. "It makes me so proud to know that I'm finishing my career with a class act of girls. That's all you can ask for as a coach."

# Young Oregon men expect improved spring

■ The Ducks hope the inexperience that hampered them in the fall pays turns into consistency for spring

By Matt O'Neill  
for the Emerald

With the fall schedule completed, head coach Steve Nosler can take stock of the Oregon men's golf team's situation. He finds the results of the fall campaign mixed.

"We had our ups and downs during the fall," Nosler said. "We didn't shoot ourselves in the foot, but we certainly didn't help ourselves either."

One of the main reasons for the inconsistent play is inexperienced players pressed into tournament action, according to Nosler. With most of his top players graduating, Nosler used as many as four first-timers in a given tournament.

"Last year, we had some more experienced players, so we didn't have to use as many inexperienced players at the same time," Nosler said. "The new kids had to take a big step, very quickly, in adjusting to the next level."

However, some of those new faces did impress Nosler with their play down the stretch. Chris Carnahan played well, despite his lack of experience at the collegiate level.

"Some of the younger guys like Carnahan really made some strides," Nosler said. "He played consistently for all four tournaments."

## Fall Results

- Northwest Collegiate 3rd place
- Pacific Invitational 8th (Lavoie 4th)
- Husky Invitational 2nd (Lavoie 2nd)
- Pepperdine Intercollegiate Tie 5th (Carrahan 8th)



While Nosler is still looking for consistency from his newcomers, he is comfortable with the play of his senior and co-captain Ryan Lavoie, who had both a second- and fourth-place finish during the fall.

"Ryan wasn't quite up to the standard he set during the summer, but he was still pretty consistent," Nosler said.

One thing that Nosler takes away from the fall schedule is the fact that most of the newcomers did get much-needed experience, which helps them prepare for the Pacific-10 Conference. He knows that, if the team plays up to its capability, the Ducks will be in the hunt for postseason play.

"We know that we have to be prepared and tee it up every time," Nosler said. "Last year at this time, we were basically qualified for regionals. This year we have to play to our capabilities before we can think about that."

The Ducks return to the greens at the end of January, when they head to the Arizona Invitational.



**Most**  
**UO students**  
**[80%] have**  
**4**  
**drinks over**  
**when they party**

BEWELL

Data taken from 1998 UO Health Center Survey.

Office of Student Life