

Oregon improves in second round

■ After the second day in Arizona, the Ducks are poised for a top-10 finish

By Peter Hockaday
for the Emerald

Two-thirds of the way through the Arizona Wildcat Invitational, and the Ducks are only getting better with age.

After a dismal performance Monday, the women's golf team took a step in the right direction in the second round, which took place yesterday. The Ducks jumped three positions and finished the day 14th of 18 teams.

Of the six golfers playing with the team, all but senior Angie Rizzo improved their scores from the first round to the second. Rizzo still enjoys the team's best overall score, a four-over par 148.

Senior Anika Heuser had the most dramatic improvement, jumping from a 10-over par 82 on Monday to a one-under 71 in the second round. That improvement was enough to move her from 90th to 62nd place.

Junior Jerilyn White improved her score by five strokes, finishing in 37th. Senior co-captain Pam Sowden improved by six strokes, earning the 69th position. Sophomore Julia Smith had the team's worst score yet still managed to shoot seven strokes better than her performance on Monday.

While Arizona senator John McCain was tearing it up in the

presidential primaries, his state's largest university was tearing it up on the golf course. The No. 1-ranked Wildcats moved into first at their tournament, finishing seven strokes ahead of second place teams Arizona State and Stanford. Arizona is 37 strokes ahead of Oregon.

More importantly, Southern California is only ten strokes ahead of the Ducks. USC holds down the tenth spot right now, but if Oregon can repeat Tuesday's performance they could find themselves taking over USC's spot by tonight.

The fight for second place in the tournament may be more captivating than the race for first. Fourth-ranked Arizona State and No. 6 Stanford share the second spot with 2-under par 574s, while No. 2 Duke is three strokes behind the two second-place teams.

For Oregon to finish well, they will have to overcome a handful of ranked teams. Fourteen of the country's top 25 teams lead the Ducks, including the top seven in MasterCard's Collegiate Rankings. Oregon needs a strong performance in order to keep their spot at 24th in the rankings.

The 54-hole tournament, being held at the Randolph Park Golf Course in Tucson, concludes today with an 18-hole round.



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coup that could rival the infamous Babe Ruth deal to the New York Yankees, it may prove to be too much for the Reds to give up for one player — albeit a very good, if not great player. But they still gave up arguably their best major league arm and a good minor league one.

Many experts say Tomko (5-7, 4.92) was the best of Cincinnati's pitchers. ESPN.com's Peter Gammons wrote in his recent article about the trade.

"In Gil Meche, Freddie Garcia, John Halama, and Brett Tomko they (Mariners) have four young pitchers whose ceilings run from No. 1 starter to No. 3. Watch Tomko, who has undergone a vigorous off-season program and is ready to take off after a side-tracked season."

With the departure of Tomko, the Reds are left with a starting rotation that consists of Ron Villone, Steve Parris, Denny Neagle, and Pete Harnisch. Not very good for a team that considers itself in the hunt for the pennant.

Villone has seemed to have finally found his niche with the Reds, going 9-7 last season after stints with four other teams and compiling a career record of 13-11. Parris has split all four of his major league career decisions between Pittsburgh and Cincy, with a record of 23-18.

Harnisch and Neagle are the only two proven commodities on the staff, but both have yet to return to the level that they experienced in the past. Harnisch (102-94) was once a solid starter who provided innings and quality starts for both the Mets and the Orioles before he battled with depression, resulting from quitting chewing tobacco.

Neagle (90-60), who was acquired by the Reds in hopes of being their No. 1 starter, has yet to bounce back fully from shoulder surgery.

The big concern for Reds' general manager Jim Bowden, in pulling off this trade was keeping top prospects, and Griffey's potential salary demands. But Griffey took less money, and Bowden was able to keep his prized prospects.

Unfortunately for Bowden, none of those prospects are pitchers. Even with adequate pitching, the Reds wouldn't be able to go as far as they think they can.

They need to look no further than the aforementioned Astros, who last season had some of the hottest arms in the league, if not baseball.

They boasted two 20-game winners in Mike Hampton (22-4) and Jose Lima (21-10), as well as 16-game winner Shane Reynolds, and yet they were still run quickly from October play.

While Griffey will definitely sell a lot of season tickets and hit a lot of home runs, he is still only one player. And in baseball, unlike basketball, a team needs more than one player to put it over the top.

For an example, look no further than Atlanta. They have a ton of big bats and great pitching, but still can't win a World Series.

So until the Reds can get a legitimate No. 1 starter, there will no return to the glory days of "The Big Red Machine" that the reunion of Griffey Junior and Senior like the Cincy faithful are hoping for.

Matt O'Neill is a sports reporter for the Emerald. He can be reached via e-mail at moneill@gladstone.uoregon.edu.

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