

Men's golf in good shape as tournament turns rainy

■ The Ducks are in fourth place as other Pac-10 teams play poorly

by Peter Hockaday
for the Emerald

On the soggy fairways of the North Ranch Country Club in Westlake Village, Calif., the Oregon men's golf team is sitting pretty after two rounds at the Cleveland Southwest Intercollegiate Tournament.

The Ducks finished in fourth place of fourteen teams Monday, trailing only No. 7 Brigham Young, No. 8 Arizona State and No. 14 Fresno State.

Oregon senior co-captain Ryan Lavoie leads all golfers through two rounds at the three-round, 56-hole tournament. Lavoie shot a three-under 139 to finish the day one stroke ahead of Oregon State's Jon Lepak.

Junior T.J. Duncan, who hasn't played in a tournament since the Husky Invitational in September, shot an impressive one-over par 143 to finish the day in a three-way tie for eighth place.

Finally the Ducks have found some team consistency, and more importantly, some team chemistry.

"We played well," head coach Steve Nosler said. "The kids felt good about the group I brought down to this tournament." BYU and Fresno State are the only teams other than Oregon to have two golfers among the top 10 individual finishers.

Nosler stressed the importance of team play in the tournament. "You really need all five guys hanging right in there until the very end," Nosler said.

Also placing for the Ducks were sophomore Brandon Harn-den (six-over, 149), who finished the second round in a tie for 34th, and junior Matt Genovese (10-over, 153), who finished in a tie for 52nd.

Alarming for the Ducks was the play of senior co-captain Andrew Tredway. The Ashland, Ore., native paced Oregon in both tournaments the team has played so far in 2000. Tredway finished yesterday's play in a tie for 45th overall, third among the Ducks.

Oregon's strong overall play has been due in part to the weather conditions in Southern California. At least seven inches of rain have fallen in the past three weeks, Nosler said, and the wet conditions may be helping the Ducks, one of the few teams with experience in the water.

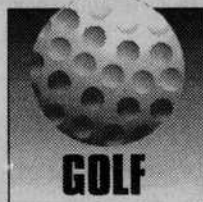
"It shouldn't affect us as much as it does some people," Nosler said of the rain. "We sure play in enough of it."

The local forecast in Westlake calls for more rain tomorrow, Nosler said.

The best news for the Ducks so

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Steve Nosler
head coach



far has undoubtedly been the breakthrough play of Duncan. Although he played well in the Pacific and Husky invitationals in the fall, Duncan has been unable to make the cut and play with the team this year. He's finally getting his chance in California and has risen to the occasion so far.

"He played very well today," Nosler said of Duncan.

"To have him come back the way he did today was a real credit to him."

One of the surprises of the Southwest so far has been the weak play of some Pacific-10 Conference powers. No. 12 Stanford, especially, has played poorly. With a 605 over two rounds, Stanford is 25 strokes behind Oregon.

Host No. 16 Southern California has been struggling in the puddles as well. USC is currently in seventh place overall, but it is a weak seventh. The Trojans trail sixth place UCLA by nine strokes.

The tournament concludes today with one 18-hole round.

Oregon men's lacrosse team enjoys home field success against Linfield

■ The Ducks come out focused to rout Linfield at home and are 21-2 in weekend competition

By Shigenari Matsumoto
for the Emerald

The Oregon Club Sports men's lacrosse team (2-2 overall) trampled Linfield University (0-3) 21-2 at the turf adjacent to the Rec Center on Sunday.

The Ducks came out strong after a tough loss to Pacific Lutheran University two weeks ago, taking a commanding 11-1 lead by half time even without their leading scorer, James Halls, who was out with an ankle injury.

Oregon coach Josh Barbour said communication, focus and support were the key elements of Oregon's success.

"Jared [Blanchette] is a very good player, but also, the players without the ball moved well and confused the opponent's defense," Barbour said.

"It was a combination of Jared being at the right place and the players without the ball moving well. This happened because we communicated well."

Blanchette and Doug Hamilton finished with three and four goals, respectively.

Despite the big lead, Oregon managed to keep up its intensity in the second half and allowed only one goal. Barbour said he was happy how the team kept

their focus on each play and did not get distracted by the big lead or the umpires' calls.

The team played organized defense that they had been practicing and supported each other by covering the ball handler when a defender got beaten, according to Barbour.

"The team is in very good shape," Barbour said. "If we keep the intensity and momentum, we're a good team."

The next game for the Ducks is against Washington (2-2) at Husky Stadium on Saturday. Barbour said the team is excited about playing there.

"Win or lose, it should be fun," he said.

Women's rugby finishes weekend with mixed results

The Oregon Club Sports women's rugby team (3-1) played Central Washington (3-1) and Washington State (2-2) in Portland last Saturday, winning the first game against Central Washington, 33-10, then falling to the Cougars. Oregon's offense did a good job moving the ball between the forwards and the backs in the first game, which lead to scoring attempts from five different players. Senior Kristina Skogen, who scored the first goal for the Ducks, said it was good to see different players score.

"It is a sign that we are playing as a team," Skogen said. "Also, players are more confident about their plays and their physical strength."

Other scorers included Shelby Frail, who converted four of five extra-point attempts; flanker

Camille Steele; inside center Hillary Giorgio; and outside center Jennifer Vazzana. After a two-hour intermission, Oregon faced the Cougars in the snow. The ground was covered with ice, and it was freezing, Skogen said.

Anastasia Eslinger and Steele had to leave the game early due

“ It was a combination of Jared [Blanchette] being at the right place and the players without the ball moving well.

Josh Barbour
men's lacrosse coach

to injuries, but they're both expected to be back for the match against Oregon State University (4-0) next Saturday in Corvallis. The Civil War game will be the Ducks' last of the regular season.

The Ducks beat the Beavers in the Oregon Rugby Sports Union Tournament two weeks ago when they went undefeated and earned the tournament's most outstanding women's team award.

"We need to be physically and mentally focused," Skogen said. "Oregon State will be hungry for a win after the loss. It will come down to which team wants to win more."

The win against the Beavers this Saturday won't only give the Ducks bragging rights, but it will also secure the first position in Pacific Northwest league and a trip to the Territorial Playoffs in April.

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