

Ducks will use experience to get to NCAAAs

Four Oregon golfers try to extend their careers at the NCAA West Regionals in Tempe; team bids farewell to coach

By Peter Hockaday for the Emerald

The Oregon women's golf team has three days to make an up-and-down season finish on an upward swing.

The Ducks play in the NCAA West Regionals in Tempe, Ariz., this week. It's a tournament that holds all the importance in the world for Oregon's four seniors.

The golfers need to finish in the top 11 of the 24-team field in order to advance to the NCAA Championships at Sunriver May 24-27. Every one of those 24 teams, like the No. 26 Ducks, is ranked in the top 50 in the nation.

The Ducks will have 54 holes of golf today through Saturday to reverse history. In the 14-year "modern era" of Oregon women's golf—the team was first recognized as a women's sport in 1986—the Ducks have made five appearances at the NCAA Championships. Four of those five times, they finished fifth or better at the Pacific-10 Conference Championships, which always features some of the top teams in the country. This year they finished seventh at the Pac-10s.

Oregon will rely on the steady play of their seniors and talented junior Jerilyn White in Tempe. The four seniors — co-captains Pam

Sowden and Kylie Wilson, Anika Heuser and Angie Rizzo — have played together all year. All of the seniors have played in the NCAA Championships except Rizzo.

They will try to give head coach Renee Baumgartner, in her last year as coach before taking over assistant athletic director duties, a final trip to the NCAAAs.



However, with all that experience, the team will rely on its youngest member to step up at the regionals. White, the only underclassman who regularly starts for the Ducks, is the team's stroke-average leader and the only Duck

ranked in the nation's top 100 golfers at No. 80. White is also the only Duck besides Rizzo without NCAA Championship experience.

Oregon will need to perform well on a course that has already stymied them once this year. The Karsten Golf Course was the site of the Ping/Arizona State Invitational in early April, a tournament in which the Ducks finished 13th of 15 teams. Oregon had won two tournaments in a row before heading to Arizona for the Ping.

The Ducks will not have that kind of momentum going into the regionals. They placed seventh at the Pac-10 Championships two weeks ago, and the Ping/ASU Invitational was a mere week before that.

However, it seems like the Ducks are following mystical patterns in their season so far, where momentum means nothing and conversely, losing means nothing. Since October, the team has finished first, 16th, second, 14th, first, first, 13th, and seventh — in that order. That would seem to mean a return to winning form is inevitable, but the Ducks are running out of chances.

No. 1 Arizona, one of seven top-10 teams at the regionals, will be heavily favored to win despite the tough competition. Senior all-Pac-10 and top-ranked Jenna Daniels will be shooting for her seventh top-three finish this week.

The West Regionals tee off today in Tempe. The golfers play 18 holes each day through Saturday.

Bonzi finally finds way to break through in Game 2

By Landon Hall Associated Press

PORTLAND — One of the subtle benefits of Portland's blowout victory over the Utah Jazz in Game 2 was the emergence of Bonzi Wells from his near-invisibility on the Trail Blazers' bench.

Wells had seemed as anonymous as someone in a virtual Witness Protection Program during the playoffs, although his only crimes were bad defense and foul trouble.

Before he scored 17 points in Tuesday night's 103-85 win, Wells had played in just three of Portland's five postseason games. His

stat line: Twelve minutes, zero points, five fouls and four turnovers.

That all changed in Game 2, and even though he scored 15 points in the fourth quarter,



when the outcome was secure, it gave the 23-year-old shooting guard a huge lift in spirits.

"It was good for us to see, too, because we know how it is when you get in a funk, and it's hard do get out of," teammate Brian Grant said at practice Wednesday, before the

Blazers were scheduled to fly to Salt Lake City for Thursday's Game 3.

Wells made seven of his nine shots, many of them layups and quick darts to the basket like the ones he made during his impressive second NBA season.

Jermaine O'Neal, a \$5 million backup center who had not played at all in the playoffs, also got off the bench, scoring two points.

It has been a tough week for Wells. As he was struggling to regain his confidence, assistant coach Bill Musselman died suddenly last Friday morning. Wells

was close to Musselman and took his death particularly hard.

Wells hasn't spoken publicly about the coach, and he's found it difficult to talk at all.

"I'm cool with interviews," he said after Game 2, but "I've got to wait a few more days. Got a lot of stuff on my mind."

Wells, a high-scoring star at Ball State University, was largely unknown when he was drafted by the Detroit Pistons with the 11th overall pick in 1998, then traded to the Blazers.

He barely got off the bench during his rookie season as the backup

to Isaiah Rider. Wells played in just seven games, scoring a total of 31 points. He was left off Portland's playoff roster.

Now that he's back in the fold, the Blazers feel better about their chances.

"We're going to need him throughout the playoffs," Grant said. "We've got to continue to play as hard as we can, man, so guys can get minutes, because we're definitely going to have to start stretching that roster because foul trouble's going to come up."

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 11). Love is abundant this year, but money could be tight. Draw up a budget in May. You'll have to spend in June, so spend wisely. Learn more ways to pinch your pennies in July. Home and family want your time and attention in August, and you want to be with them, too. Your romantic commitment could be expensive in September but worth every dime. You and your partner can find a treasure together in December. Use your wits to cinch a good deal in February.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 5 — You may be tempted to complain, but your tough job could bring in a fat paycheck. When we're out of work, we pray for days like this one. You may have too much to do, but that's OK. You perform well under pressure.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 9 — You were kind of sluggish yesterday, but today you're up to speed again. Take care not to overspend, however. The money could slip through your fingers fast. Don't let your teenagers take your credit card to the mall, either.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 4 — You could get a bit cranky. You hate to have your temper flare. You'd much rather handle every situation rationally, even big messes. That may be difficult in this case. Take deep breaths, and you'll get things back in order soon.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Today is an 8 — You might want to spend the day reading. If you have the luxury to do that, go ahead. Odds are good you'll come across an idea that could challenge your old way of thinking, and that's always fun. It gets your blood pumping!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 6 — You might see the rewards for the work you've been doing. The person you've tried to persuade could finally go along with your plans. You should be an expert at explaining by now, so you won't be dismayed if you have to do it one more time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — You've accomplished a lot during the past few weeks. You're still lucky, but your plans may clash with an older person's. Usually you don't mind doing what you're told, but today it could be difficult. Just do the best you can.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Today is a 5 — Negotiating a deal could interfere with your entertainment plans this evening. Now that you know that, why not call your date and reschedule? That way if you have to work, you won't have to come up with an excuse at the last minute.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — You and your mate could have some interesting discussions now. If you have a difference of opinion regarding money, talk it out. This may take a couple of days, but it'll be worth the effort.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 5 — Expect a lot of work and a critical audience. Concentrating on your job may be hard. Ignore the heckler and put on a good show. Once you get into your routine, you can prove you're a real professional.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 10 — You're the luckiest person on the block. Postpone your travel plans until the work's done and until you move your number from nine to 10. That hardly even needs to be mentioned 'cause you always do that, anyway!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 5 — You may negotiate a big deal. If so, don't get impatient. Some complications are sure to show up. Don't take no for an answer, though. Keep after what you want, and you can get it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — You may notice that your partner is being a complete jerk. If that's the case, keep your opinion to yourself. Even if you're right, mentioning it won't do much good. You don't have to, anyway. Events will prove you right, and you'll look marvelous.

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