



Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emerald

Lavoie has made the most of his senior season, acquiring a No. 41 ranking and having won four individual tournaments.

Lavoie

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Oregon head coach Steve Nosler agrees.

"I think any time somebody's playing well on the course, it has a positive effect," he said. "Probably there's more pressure on Ryan than the other boys because I think his teammates expect him to play well."

Those "other boys" that Nosler speaks of are close to Lavoie. Ask about his teammates, and the senior lights up like a firecracker.

"[Chris] Carnahan is one of the best smart golfers I've ever seen. He never gets away from his game plan," Lavoie says. "TJ [Duncan] has been in the trenches, he knows every situation there is to play in. [Aaron] Byers is one of the best talents I've seen."

But perhaps the most praise is reserved for Lavoie's co-captain, senior Andrew Tredway.

"We feed off each other," Lavoie said of Tredway. "He's a great player. I think we work well together."

Both captains realize that the season only has two tournaments left, and only one if the Ducks don't finish ninth or better at the NCAA West Regionals in Fresno, Calif., which start today. Both want desperately to extend their last season as Ducks to Auburn, Ala., site of the NCAA Championships May 31-June 3.

"I definitely want to get back to the NAAs," Tredway said. "We just have to go take care of busi-

ness this week."

Taking care of business in Fresno may be easier than it sounds.

The No. 19 Ducks will face top competition at the regionals. Eight top-25 teams, including No. 5 Arizona State with freshman sensation Paul Casey, will play in the tournament. The top nine finishers advance to the NAAs.

But if you talk to the Ducks,

“Probably, there's more pressure on Ryan than the other boys because I think his teammates expect him to play well.”

Steve Nosler
head coach

they exude confidence about the regionals.

"I don't think we've nearly reached our potential as far as where we are," Nosler said.

"We've got our best golf ahead of us," Lavoie said. "I think we can raise some eyebrows."

Ryan Lavoie has been raising eyebrows since he arrived on campus four years ago. Now he just needs to raise two more things — the West Regionals trophy and the NCAA Championships trophy.

But even if he did win both individual titles, he probably wouldn't tell you about it.

Mariners win, sign Rickey

By JIM COUR
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Unbeaten John Halama pitched a four-hitter Wednesday night, and the Seattle Mariners completed a three-game sweep with a 4-0 win over the Minnesota Twins.

During the game, the Mariners announced they had agreed to terms with Rickey Henderson to be their new leadoff man. The left fielder was released by the New York Mets last Saturday.

Halama (5-0), who was part of the trade of Randy Johnson to Houston July 31, 1998, did not walk a batter and struck out two. He faced only 29 batters in pitching his second career shutout.

The AL West-leading Mariners won their fifth in a row at Safeco Field. The Twins have lost five straight.

Edgar Martinez homered off former Mariners farmhand Joe Mays (1-5) in the sixth inning. Martinez had three homers and nine RBIs in the series, during which Seattle outscored the Twins 27-5.

The Mariners took a 1-0 lead in the first on John Olerud's RBI single. In the third, they made it 3-0 when Mays' pickoff attempt of Alex Rodriguez at first sailed past first baseman Ron Coomer, allowing Mike Cameron to score from second. Olerud doubled in Rodriguez from second.

Notes: The Mariners are 13-5 at Safeco Field. ... Halama, 28, is 4-0 against the Twins, including two wins this season. He beat Minnesota 5-4 on May 2. ... Butch Huskey had two of Minnesota's hits, ending a 2-for-22 slump. ... For the series, Martinez was 6-for-13 and scored five runs.

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