

## Ducks' ruin

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And this was not the way Oregon pictured itself ending the fourth and final day of the 2000 NCAA Women's Golf Championships.

Especially after shocking everyone with a first-place showing on day one. Or after staying in the hunt with a third-place standing after the second and third rounds, respectively.

But the numbers don't lie. The Ducks battled against the weather and lost, shooting a four-player total 34-over-par 322. The decline in scores dropped Oregon to a tie for 11th place and away from its best finish ever at the NCAA Championships, a seventh place finish in 1997.

"We had three days of up and one day of down," Baumgartner said. "Before the tournament, if you would have told me where we finished, I would have been excited."

They most certainly would have, but after starting out so great, it was tough for the coach and junior Jerilyn White to put on a happy face.

The two were seated side-by-side in a white tent just outside the Crosswater Golf Club course. Their voices were sometimes overshadowed by the loud rainfall and constant movement of the tent itself.

Their bodies were slumped just a tad in their respective chairs, and on their sun-burned faces were looks of exhaustion.

"We've had a long week," said Baumgartner, who will now be the full-time associate athletic director after 13 years of coaching. "We had two practice rounds and then four days of competition. Usually our last round is our best round, just not today."

Baumgartner said it wasn't until she reached the 16th hole that it "hit her" that this was her final day as coach.

"But then I saw my daughter sitting up by the green," Baumgartner said, "and it kept it all in perspective."

One couldn't help but notice the large picture that Baumgartner and White were seated in front of. It was a postcard-esque portrait of Sunriver, with blue skies and crystal clear water.

That was the type of day that Baumgartner and her "dream team" of four seniors and White deserved to play on.

And wouldn't you know, those sunny blue skies did eventually appear. But when it did, Oregon was nowhere to be found.

Instead, it was Arizona celebrating its win in clear conditions below the leader board that showed the Wildcats 21 strokes ahead of second-place Stanford.

Sometimes, it seems, Mother Nature can be oh so cruel.



Arizona celebrates its second team title in five years at the Crosswater Golf Course. The Wildcats beat Stanford by 21 strokes.

## Carter

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"Memo had a great year," Russell said. "He's helped set the standard for a lot of our guys — what they want to do and achieve. He worked hard in matches and in practice."

"In the past, if things weren't going his way on the court, he'd fall apart. Now, if things weren't

going his way, he'd actually buckle down and play at a higher level."

Carter led Oregon to a 12-10 record and their second postseason appearance ever. Eight of Carter's 17 wins this season came against higher-ranked opponents.

Those upsets were some of the biggest in Oregon tennis history, including an upset over Stanford's then-No. 3 Geoff Abrams and a key role in the victories

over the Arizona schools.

From last season, Carter has seen an improvement of 13 matches — four more wins and nine fewer losses from his 13-20 mark. Last fall, Carter took a break in collegiate action to compete on his own. Russell attributes Carter's recent success to his break in action.

"He had a new perspective when he came back," Russell said earlier this year. "He has

eased back into things with a maturity he didn't have in the past. That definitely helped us."

Carter was also part of Russell's first recruiting class, along with current seniors Joaquin Hamdan and Cedric Van Haver. Since coming to Oregon in 1995, Russell has guided the Ducks to their first Pac-10 conference wins and their first NCAA appearances. For his efforts, Russell earned this season's Pac-10 Coach of the Year award.

Now, Russell looks to next season, when the Ducks hope to continue their recent success.

Next year's Ducks will be young, with only one senior — David Becker — and a nucleus of talented underclassmen, including highly touted recruit Buck Mink.

"Memo's run really lends a lot of credibility to the program," Russell said. "Other coaches and players see now that we have an All-American. People can't take us lightly anymore."

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