

UO golfers second after a day at Husky Invite

■ The men's golf team trails Pepperdine by ten strokes at the Husky Invitational in Port Orchard, Wash.

By Peter Hockaday
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Ducks are almost a lock to beat the Huskies this week.

On the golf course, anyway.

After one round at Washington's Husky Invitational, the Ducks are in second place, eight strokes ahead of the fifth-placed hosts. In Monday's action, Oregon was tied for first after 18 holes, but slipped ten strokes behind Pepperdine after the second round.

Oregon head coach Steve Nosler was surprisingly disappointed with his team's second-place perform-

ance.

"We played pretty well in the morning," Nosler said, "but we slipped a bit in the afternoon and let some teams get close to us. We did not play to the level we are capable of playing."

Oregon sophomore John Ellis, a junior college transfer, is leading the Ducks in Washington with an even-par 144. He is one stroke behind tournament leader Randy Creighton of Pepperdine. Ellis finished 19th at the Ducks' first tournament, the Northwest Classic in Corvallis two weeks ago.

Junior co-captain Brandon Harden was the second-best Duck golfer, carding a 148 to finish tied for 13th. Senior Matt Genovese finished the day tied for 18th, and sophomore Chris Carnahan shared 33rd

place with redshirt freshman Brad Mombert.

Carnahan held the Ducks' second-best scoring average last year

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Head coach
Oregon golf team

and won the individual crown at the Northwest Classic with a seven-under-par 203. But with a second-round 77, Carnahan took himself out of the running for a second straight individual title.

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tal problems," Nosler said. "We can eliminate those."

If Oregon can hold on to its position today at the Trophy Lake Golf Course, it would be the team's second top-five finish of its young season. The Ducks started off the year with a fifth-place showing at the Northwest Classic.

But Nosler doesn't want to finish anything but first.

"If we play like we are capable of playing, we can move up and make a run on Pepperdine, or at least hang on to second place," Nosler said. "But I never go to a tournament thinking about finishing second."

The 54-hole tournament features seven Pacific-10 Conference teams in the 10-team field. Oregon has had success against Pac-10 foes the past two years. The Ducks currently lead

all six other Pac-10 teams at the Husky Invitational, and placed better than three Pac-10 teams at the Northwest Classic.

Pepperdine turned a one-stroke deficit into a 10 stroke lead on Oregon, but the afternoon round's biggest story was the drop-off of Tulsa. After a first-round team score of 364, the Golden Hurricane shot 28 strokes worse in the second round to drop to seventh.

Oregon had a 15 stroke differential between its two rounds, but managed to hold onto second. The Ducks lead UCLA by two strokes and Oregon State by six strokes.

The final 18-hole round of the Husky Invitational is scheduled to start at 9:30 a.m. today in Port Orchard.

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Decathlete

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Games in Winnipeg with an impressive point total of 8,070.

Later that year, Steele bettered that score with a personal best 8,130 points at the IAAF World Championships, where he finished eighth.

The reason Steele took an absence from the sport was because he focused his efforts on Bobsled racing, which was a successful venture. Steele was a member of the U.S. Bobsled National Team from

1997-98 and visited Nagano, Japan, as a member of the 1998 Olympic Team in the two- and four-man sled crews.

Steele will continue to be a full-time decathlete, but is eager to share his ideas with the Duck athletes and experience the Oregon track atmosphere.

"I had been hoping to coach since I graduated in 1992, but until now it's never been the right situation," Steele said. "I also love the Eugene community, and the way it embraces its athletes. It's a great setting to be an athlete and coach."

Portland picks up Padres franchise

PORTLAND — Portland's Triple-A baseball franchise has signed a four-year agreement with the San Diego Padres, whose Triple-A team was left homeless when Las Vegas cut a deal with the Dodgers.

"We're ecstatic," said Mike Higgins, PFE's vice president and general manager. "We had some options, and with the PGE Park renovation we pretty much found ourselves in the driver's seat to pick who we wanted."

PFE is moving the Albuquerque Dukes to Portland, but the Dodgers didn't want to come, despite the Portland leanings of some people in the organization's front office.


Meanwhile, Las Vegas dropped its affiliation with the Padres after 18 years.

Padres' general manager Kevin Towers said the team also considered a move to Salt Lake City.

"Sometimes change is good," he said. "We had 18 terrific years in Las Vegas. Those people were great to us. But we're excited to be in Portland now. I hope our relationship with Portland lasts 18 years. We think Portland is a big-league city."

The Padres have their Class-A team in Eugene and their advanced Rookie League team in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

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