

Regional tourney to test men's golf

■ Ducks will face tough competition in a Hawaii tournament

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

With the hope of securing a berth to the NCAA regionals in May, the Oregon men's golf team begins the first round of the 54-hole Taylor Made Invitational today in Waikoloa, Hawaii.

The field includes six of the top 13 teams in the West region as well as seven of the nation's top-20 teams. The tournament action will take place at the par-72, 6,594-yard Waikoloa Kings & Beach Golf Course.

"We had some good competition in our qualifying rounds, so hopefully that will carry over to the tournament," head coach Steve Nosler said.

Some of the most notable teams include No. 3 Georgia Tech, No. 5 Southern California, No. 8 Brigham Young, No. 16 San Diego State, No. 16 (tie) Texas, No. 18 Oklahoma and No. 19 Texas Christian.

"This is a very good field and we have a chance to have a good showing against teams we will be competing against for a bid to regionals," Nosler said.

The Ducks, ranked seventh in the West region, finished ninth at the Ping-Arizona intercollegiate tournament last month. Oregon was just three strokes from a top-six finish. Junior Aaron Byers shot a final round three-under 68 to tie for fifth, his best finish, with an overall three-under 210.



Women

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who did not play in the first half, hit three three-pointers in the second period of that game, her final trey coming with 17 seconds left to put the Cougars ahead for good.

"Ideally, this would be the team we would want to lick first since they gave us that first loss a month ago," senior forward Lindsey Dion said after Wednesday's practice. "I think we have every capability of doing that. We've had two good practices, and that's something we haven't been doing very well these past two weeks."

"I think we're going to be just fine."

Dion and senior Angelina Wolvert did not play against the Cougars because of injuries suffered two days earlier at Washington. Dion, in fact, is still struggling with the left ankle sprain, which is not healing properly.

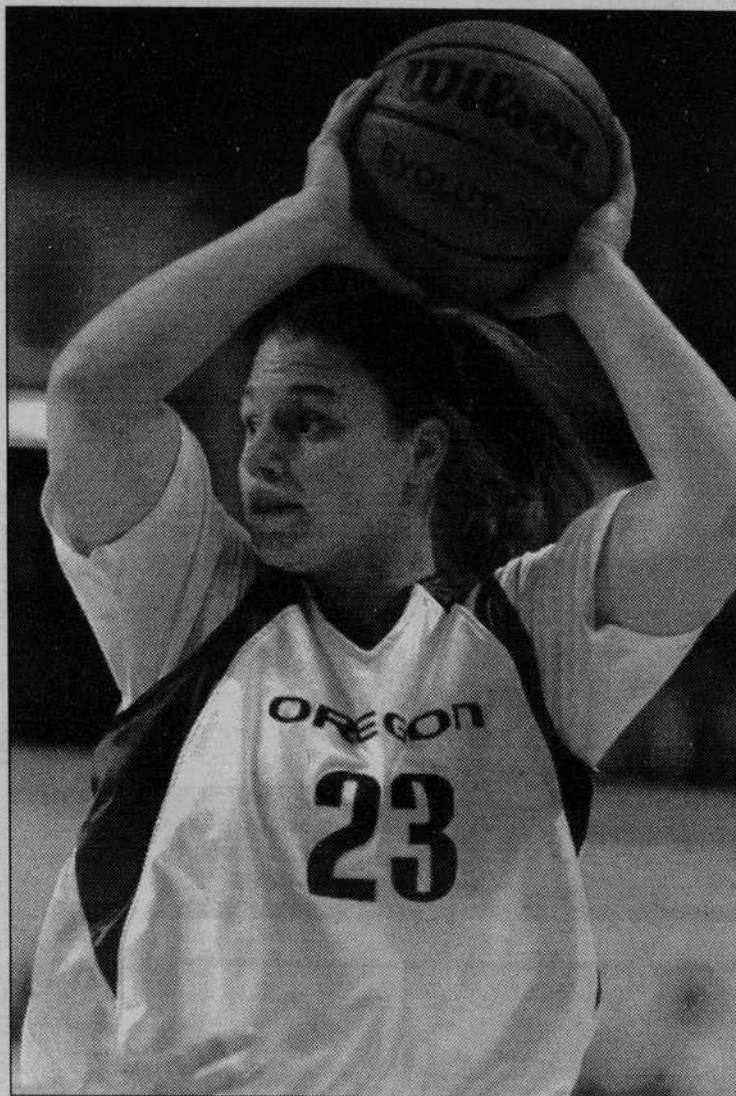
"I just have no strength in my ankle," Dion said. "I can't really push off it or jump off it. I doesn't necessarily hurt, it's just feels really weak."

Oregon is also hampered by several other injuries, particularly senior post Jenny Mowe's pulled sartorius muscle. Several of the players are also battling the flu, as is Runge.

In Pullman, senior forward Brienne Meharry paced the Ducks with 17 points and eight rebounds before fouling out late in the game; junior Ndidi Unaka had a career-high 15 points against the Cougs.

"They beat us without two of our starters. So if that's a satisfying win for them, great," Meharry said. "Now it's time for them to face our team with everyone ready to go. So we'll see what happens."

Washington State is fresh off a victory over Arizona last Saturday, with senior forward Yvonne Volkman leading the way with a career-high 22 points.



Laura Smit Emerald

Senior Lindsey Dion said the Ducks had a good week of practice in preparation for Washington State tonight at Mac Court. Oregon has lost four straight, all on the road.

"They're a much better team, and Volkman is playing really well for them," said Runge, who holds a 14-2 record against Washington State. "They're going to be a tremendous challenge. But the road in the Pac-10 is not easy, and [the Cougars] are going to have to bring it."

No. 23 Washington (15-6, 8-3) will bring it's first-place standing to Eugene for a 1 p.m. show time Saturday.

Scoring the final 14 points of the game, the Ducks defeated the Huskies 67-53 in Seattle on Jan. 18. Craighead scored 16 points to lead Oregon.

No current Washington player has ever taken part in a victory against the Ducks.

The Huskies have won four straight, including a sweep of Arizona and Arizona State last weekend.

Wrestling

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The Beavers were helped out by three major upsets in the first half of the match. Unranked second-stringer Michael Delaney was a heavy underdog heading into the 125-pound match against Oregon's No. 7 Shaun Williams. A reversal, three-point near-fall and escape was all that Delaney needed to edge Williams, 11-7.

Oregon sophomore Tony Overstake had defeated Oregon State's Casey Horn twice already this season, but an early cradle move by Horn cost Overstake five points on a near-fall.

The Ducks' Brian Watson fell victim to a questionable call in overtime for the second time this season, dropping a 4-2 decision to Ben Richards. With the match tied at 2-2 in the extra period, Richards

attempted to gain control of Watson while falling out of bounds. The referee awarded Richards the takedown and the win.

Oregon senior All-Americans Doug Lee and Chael Sonnen ended their regular season careers in an Oregon singlet successfully, both earning a decision. Sonnen tossed around Oregon State's Jason Lovell for a 16-6 major decision. The victory extended Sonnen's season record to 26-7.

"Something strange happened tonight," Sonnen said. "We were flat. We weren't on our toes. It just always seemed to go their way."

Lee ended the match on a high note, defeating Oregon State's Isaac Weber, 6-2, to cap his conference season undefeated, assuring him of the top seed at the Pac-10 Championships on Feb. 25-26.

One of the most inspirational

wins of the match was at 165 pounds, where junior Leif Williams was trailing Oregon State's Jake Huffman 8-3 heading into the final period. Williams responded with a reversal, escape and four consecutive takedowns to take the match into overtime. Four seconds into the extra period, Williams sealed the match with his fifth takedown.

"Leif started a little flat but he bounced back," Kearney said. "It's tough wrestling up a class but he never complains and he's always ready to go out there."

Williams, who switches off with freshman Luke Larwin at either 165 or 174 pounds, won for the eighth time this season.

Both teams look forward to participating in the Pac-10 Championships next weekend at McArthur Court.

Sports briefs

Stern clears way for Grizzlies to leave Vancouver

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — After six years of losing hundreds of games on the court and millions of dollars at the bank, the Grizzlies look ready to leave Vancouver — possibly as early as next season.

NBA commissioner David Stern met with team owner Michael Heisley in Washington on Monday

and agreed that, considering the money the team is losing, it's time to for the Grizzlies to find a new home.

"We've agreed to assist Mr. Heisley in exploring what other North American cities might be appropriate for the Grizzlies to relocate to," Stern said.

It didn't take long for potential U.S. homes to begin wooing the Grizzlies.

New Orleans, which once lost the Jazz to Salt Lake City, was first to show interest. Doug Thornton,

general manager of the New Orleans Arena, said officials plan to contact Heisley.

"Sources tell us that he is interested in relocating the franchise, rather than selling it," Thornton said. "That's the challenge of a professional sports franchise, securing ownership."

Other cities mentioned as potential destinations include St. Louis, Las Vegas and Nashville. Last week Heisley said he'd already received interest from Louisville.

The Associated Press

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