

# Tennis runs New Mexico State, Pacific out of town

■ The Oregon men's tennis team picks up two big wins at home against ranked opponents

By Robbie McCallum  
Oregon Daily Emerald

When you have a team of mostly freshmen and a few upperclassmen, the growth curve is steep. For the Oregon men's tennis team, the road just got a little bit smoother.

Duck freshmen went 5-1 in singles play this weekend to propel No. 66 Oregon to two non-conference wins over ranked opponents.

"They're getting tougher each match," head coach Chris Russell said. "They haven't played that many matches but they're getting more experienced."

On Friday, the Ducks handed No. 54-ranked New Mexico State a 5-2 loss at the Student Tennis Center. After being swept in doubles play, the Ducks responded with three two-set decisions in singles play to regain the lead. Oregon ended the match by winning two close extra-set matches.



Freshmen Buck Mink and Greg Dubourdieu each swept their opponents. Dubourdieu, who joined the team in January, defeated the Aggies' Dan Even by identical 6-2 scores while Mink swept Al Dominguez, 7-6, 6-2. Sophomore Jason Menke added a 6-1, 6-5 win to

push his season win total to nine. Sophomore Oded Teig clinched the match for Oregon by defeating New Mexico State ace Cesar Obieta, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4. Senior David Becker iced the win, Oregon's third of the season, with a long-haul 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 win over Ben Newcombe.

"This is the best team effort we have had all year," Russell said. "All the guys did a good job fighting and competing at a level we could win at."

The Ducks continued their two-match winning streak on Sunday with a 5-2 win over visiting Pacific.

"When doing back-to-back matches with a young team, you hope that after a good performance they are able to keep up their good play," Russell said. "Today we even picked it up a notch."

Freshmen Martin Pawlowski and Chris King contributed to the Ducks' victory in doubles play. The No. 45 doubles team of Pawlowski and Becker dominated Pacific's Alexander Fiedler and Claus Lindholm, 8-3, while King and Teig upended Maxime LaCroix and Tobias Abrahamson, 8-5.

Duck freshmen got off to slow start in singles play, but bounced back for three crucial wins. Both Pawlowski and Dubourdieu were down 4-1 before coming back to win their first sets.

Pawlowski swept Fiedler, 7-5, 6-2 while Mink earned an emotional 6-2, 7-5 win over Lindholm.

Dubourdieu evened his season record at 2-2 with a 7-6, 4-6, 6-2 win over fellow Frenchman LaCroix.

"Greg did a good job of turning

around that match," Russell said. "He'd beaten his guy before pretty handily back in France and after the first few games he really turned it on."

Teig's two-set win over the Tiger's Dietrich Haug clinched the match for the Ducks, who are winners of their last three matches.

Oregon improves to 4-5 on the season and will try for its fourth straight win this Friday against UC-Santa Barbara.

"These are the kind of matches we need," Russell said. "They develop confidence and it makes the guys want more wins like this."

The wins were the Ducks' first over ranked opponents this season, which will help Oregon in the spring when the NCAA selection committee convenes.

## Men's golf 'pleased' with fourth

■ The Ducks end up in fourth place at Hawaii tournament

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon men's golf team didn't do much wrong Saturday.

But the only problem was that the teams in front of the Ducks just did things a little better.

Oregon finished the final round of the Taylor Made/Waikoloa Intercollegiate golf tournament in fourth place (falling from second-place), despite shooting its lowest round of the weekend.

The Ducks shot a 291 after shooting a 305 and a 308, respectively, in the two rounds prior. But No. 16 Texas finished with a blistering 281 to capture first place in the tournament played at the Waikoloa Kings & Beach Golf

Course in Waikoloa, Hawaii.

"I am very, very pleased with our finish," Oregon head coach Steve Nosler said. "We played pretty good today, but just not good enough. A lot of teams played better than we did."

Oregon finished five points behind second-place Arizona State (313-304-281—899) and only four points behind third-place TCU (307-308-285—900), which is ranked 19th in the nation.

The Ducks were again led by sophomore John Ellis, who continued his successful season with a tied-for-10th place finish with a score of 224. He was Oregon's lowest scorer Saturday with a mark of 71.

Oregon was also paced by sophomore Chris Carnahan (227), who ended the weekend tied-for-19th among individuals, and

teammates Brandon Harnden and Matt Genovese, who both ended up tied-for-24th. Aaron Byers rounded out the Ducks' contingent with a tied-for-37th total score of 232.

"We had a very successful tournament," Nosler said. "I think this could be a kick off for the start of some real good things to happen for this team."

While the men won't compete until March 5-6, the Oregon women's golf team hits the fairways today at the Wildcat Invitational in Tucson, Ariz. The three-day tournament marks the Ducks' first action of the spring season.

"We are looking to lay a foundation for the remainder of the season," women's head coach Shannon Rouillard said. "This is a wonderful chance to see how this group will play together."

## NASCAR legend dies at Daytona 500 race

By Mike Harris  
The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Dale Earnhardt, the greatest stock car star of his era, was killed in a crash on the last turn of the last lap of Sunday's Daytona 500 as he tried to protect Michael Waltrip's victory.

The 49-year-old driver had to be cut from his battered car and was taken to Halifax Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead of head injuries.

"He had what I felt were life-ending type injuries at the time of impact and nothing could be done for him," said Dr. Steve Bohannon, an emergency physician at the hospital who also works for Daytona International Speedway.

The accident happened a half-mile from the finish of the NASCAR season-opener as Earnhardt's newest driver, Waltrip, and son Dale Earnhardt Jr. were in front racing toward what should have been the most triumphant moment in the brief history of Dale Earnhardt Inc.

Earnhardt, a master of super-speedway racing, was fighting for third place, leading a tightly bunched five-car pack heading through the final turn. The back left corner of his famed black No. 3 Chevrolet was bumped by Sterling Marlin.

Earnhardt's car fishtailed slightly and briefly slid to its left, down toward the infield, before suddenly swinging back to the right and cutting across traffic at a sharp angle. He clipped Ken Schrader, whose yellow Pontiac carried both cars hard into the concrete wall headfirst at about 180 mph.

With Earnhardt's car already smoking and shredding at the front, Schrader's car stayed lodged into the passenger's side of the Chevrolet, forming a T. The cars careened again off the wall,

plowing into the final turn and sliding to a stop on the infield grass.

"I guess someone got into Dale because Dale got into me and then we went up," Schrader said. "We hit pretty hard and Dale hit harder."

The scene was grim as safety workers removed Earnhardt from the car, and the accident removed all the luster from a glittering race that kept the record crowd of 195,000 spectators on their feet most of the afternoon.

“This is undoubtedly one of the toughest announcements I have ever personally had to make. We've lost Dale Earnhardt.”

Mike Helton  
NASCAR president

Many of them were well on their way home when NASCAR president Mike Helton made the announcement, about 90 minutes after the race ended.

"This is undoubtedly one of the toughest announcements I have ever personally had to make. We've lost Dale Earnhardt," Helton said.

Fans in and around the sprawling speedway wept after hearing the news. The track lowered its huge American flag in the infield to half-staff after the race.

Earnhardt was a seven-time Winston Cup champion, and his 76 victories were the most among active drivers. He continued to race for longtime friend and boss Richard Childress while starting his own team, which expanded to three cars with the addition of Waltrip this year. His other drivers were Earnhardt Jr. and Steve Park.

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