

# UO women's golf to 'test' waters in talented field

■ After three weeks off, the Ducks hit the links against a potent field in Arizona

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

It may only be the first week of the term, but for the Oregon women's golf team the tests are already here.

With the Pacific-10 Conference Championships looming in less than three weeks, the Ducks understand the importance of this weekend's stacked Ping/ASU Invitational in Tempe, Ariz.

"It's another test; another midterm for us," Oregon head coach Shannon Rouillard said.

Oregon has not competed since March 13 and must shake off any rust it has in a hurry, as it will face a 15-team field that boasts 12 teams ranked in the top 50 of the latest Mastercard Collegiate Golf poll. Among the ranked Pac-10 teams in Tempe will be No. 2 Arizona, No. 4 Southern California and No. 5 Stanford.

"It is one of the toughest fields

we will play in this year, but we need to be playing in tournaments where we are forced to play well against these teams," Rouillard said.

Beginning today, the tournament will last through Sunday and will be played on the same 6,090-yard Karsten Golf Course that the Pac-10 Championships will use on April 23-25.

The probable starters for the Ducks include senior leaders Jerilyn White, Dawn Berry and Claire Hunter. The rest of the Oregon contingent will consist of junior Kathy Cho, sophomore Megan Heckerth and redshirt freshman Lacy Erickson.

White, an All-America candidate, was ranked as the 55th individual in the nation by Mastercard Collegiate Golf. The senior from Salem posted her fourth consecutive top-20 finish in Oregon's tied-for-11th showing at the UCLA Bruin Classic on March 12-13.

White is the Ducks' lone returnee from Oregon's NCAA Tournament team a season ago, a destination that Rouillard says is still a possibility for this year's team.

"We need to keep focusing on doing the things that we need to do as a team that will get us to nationals," Rouillard said.



ROUILLARD

is now scheduled to compete in the Peg Barnhard California Collegiate on April 13-14. The added tournament will take place on the Stanford Golf Course.

The Ducks know that there is no time to waste in their quest for consistency, as following the Pac-10s come the NCAA Regionals on May 10-12 and possibly a date in Howey-in-the-Hills, Fla., at the NCAA Championships on May 23-26.

"We took a couple of days off for spring break, and I think the girls have come back rejuvenated for the last two months of the season and ready to work really hard on their short game, because that is what got us to nationals last year," Rouillard said. "It will probably boil down to that again."

Originally, this weekend's competition in Tempe, Ariz., was going to be Oregon's final preparation before the Pac-10s. But in an attempt to gain more experience for the team, Oregon

# Ducks hope Arizona heat treats them as well as it did last year

■ The men's tennis team hits the home stretch of its season in familiar position

By Robbie McCallum  
Oregon Daily Emerald

It was around this time of the year last season when the Oregon men's tennis team made its historic stretch run into the NCAA Tournament.

It was two upset wins against the Arizona schools that vaulted the Ducks into the national spotlight and put them into serious

postseason contention.

The Ducks look to duplicate such success when they head to Tempe, Ariz., today for a 1:30 p.m. match with No. 30-ranked Arizona State. They then play No. 48 Arizona in Tucson on Saturday, the first of five straight Pacific-10 Conference road matches.

The 2001 Ducks are in a state similar to last year's, with a record just below the .500 mark and only two wins over top-100 ranked teams.

Oregon needs victories this weekend at Arizona and Arizona State if it wishes to be considered for the NCAA Tournament and to gain momentum for

tougher Pac-10 Conference matches later in the season.

The odds won't be in Oregon's favor though. The Ducks are coming off a tough southern road trip in which they dropped all three matches.

Oregon will need ace Oded Teig to be at the top of his game if it is to earn an upset. Last season, the sophomore clinched the 4-3 Arizona upset with his 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 singles win over the Wildcats' Michel Stopa. Teig also teamed with former Duck Thomas Schreiner for two key doubles wins last season.

Teig (18-12) will face Arizona State's No. 57 Nic Dubey and Arizona's Steven Capriati.



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