

# Golfers hope to extend season at Trysting Tree

■ The Oregon women's golf team needs to finish eighth or higher this week to make it to the NCAA Championships

By Peter Hockaday  
Oregon Daily Emerald

For the Oregon women's golf team, this is it.

One tournament, one chance for

the Ducks to get to the NCAA Championships.

Oregon will make the 45-mile trek to Corvallis today for the NCAA West Regionals, which will be held at the Trysting Tree Golf Course. The Ducks will face a field of 19 other teams — 12 ranked in the nation's top 50 — and must finish in the top eight or they'll face elimination from the NCAA Championships.

"We have our work cut out for us," Oregon head coach Shannon Rouillard said. "I believe that if we stick to our guns and play really well we'll be [at the NCAA Championships]."

When Rouillard found out about the Ducks' 12th seeding at the regionals, she said the Ducks would focus on the teams seeded 8-11. Those teams are No. 17 Michigan State, No. 35 Washington, No. 31 Furman and No. 26 In-

diana. Oregon needs to beat all those teams to advance in the postseason.

"Our goal is to break 305 three days in a row," Rouillard said.

Rouillard will take an inexperienced team to this year's regionals. Senior All-American candidate Jerilyn White is the only current Oregon golfer who competed in the postseason last year, while White and senior Dawn Berry competed

two years ago. White and Berry will both head for Corvallis this season, and joining them will be junior Kathy Cho, freshman Lacy Erickson and sophomore Megan Heckerth.

"With our team, and how inexperienced they are, who knows what we could shoot," White said. "I'm keeping positive thoughts, though."

The Ducks start play today and conclude Saturday in Corvallis.

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Oregon would tack on four more for the game, including a two-run blast from freshman Kate Peterson, and ride the right arm of pitcher Connie McMurren all the way to a confidence-boosting 7-0 victory.

"You get to a point where you have to put everything else aside and worry about the now, and not focus on what's already happened," Oregon head coach Rick

Gamez said. "I was proud of the kids the way they came back."

Peterson, who went 2 for 3 in game two, admits that the season has been tough on her and her teammates, but she insists that this is a squad with no quit in it.

"We're always here to battle," Peterson said. "We're going to put up our fight and even if we struggle, we're going to keep fighting."

Even though the Vikings (23-36) are only a fourth-place team from the Western Athletic Conference and not a Pac-10 juggernaut, the dominating

Oregon shutout win provided a rare bright spot for the Ducks as they prepare for season-ending games with No. 5 California and fourth-ranked Stanford this weekend.

"We're going to come out and leave everything on the field in our last two games," Peterson said. "I'm a believer in that sports teach you more about life than anything else. Sometimes you have bad years, but I've learned a ton this year."

Peterson also contradicts coach Lombardi's earlier statement that

winning is "the only thing."

"I don't believe winning is everything," she said. "If you come out and give it your all, then you can walk away satisfied."

As the cellar-dwelling Ducks, who will lose only one senior from their current lineup, head toward a

postseason-less conclusion, perhaps another noted Lombardi quote would suit them better:

"It's not whether you get knocked down; it's whether you get up."

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## Softball

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"That was definitely something she needed," said head coach Rick Gamez of McMurren's seven-strikeout, one-walk performance. "After throwing last weekend at Washington, she was a little bit disappointed, but she threw very well today and that's going to help her confidence going into this weekend."

"We've expected that from her all year long, but obviously it hasn't happened for all of us. It is good to see that she still has that in her."

The Ducks (28-37 overall, 1-17 Pacific-10 Conference) added two more runs in the third inning on a Laux double down the right-field line, scoring Lisa Wangler and Haij.

"The big key was just making the

routine plays," said Laux, who finished the day 4 for 6 with five RBI.

Freshman Kate Peterson hit a two-run home run in the sixth to put the Ducks ahead 7-0. McMurren started a 1-6-3 double play in the top of the seventh to end the game.

"It was nice to go out together and hit the ball, which we've been struggling with lately," Peterson said. "I was seeing the ball well all day and just needed to connect right. It felt good to see it and rip it."

In game one, Haij doubled in two runs to put the Ducks up 2-0 in the third.

Oregon freshman pitcher Anissa Meashintubby held Portland State (23-36 overall) scoreless until the fifth inning, when Kiauna Anderson — the key to the Vikings' sweep over the Ducks earlier this season — singled

in a run to cut the Ducks' lead to 2-1.

In the next inning, the Vikings scored three runs on a Meashintubby throwing error to come from behind and win, 4-2.

All of Portland State's runs were unearned. Meashintubby, who struck out six while allowing eight hits, fell to 4-2 on the season.

Morgan Seibert (17-19) picked up the win for Portland State.

With the victory in the first game, the Vikings took three of four games from the Ducks this season, their first series win against Oregon since 1985.

Hutchison was 5 for 6 on the day with a double, one RBI and one run scored.

To conclude the season, Oregon hosts No. 5 California Friday and No. 4 Stanford for a doubleheader Saturday.

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