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## **Ducks seventh in Corvallis**

■The women's golf team is part of a group that stands in seventh place after one round at the NCAA regionals

By Peter Hockaday Oregon Daily Emerald

The top of the leaderboard at the women's NCAA west regionals for golf is relatively open after the first round of play in Corvallis. Arizona leads Stanford by five strokes and

Michigan State by seven strokes.

In the middle of the pack, where the Oregon golf team resides, that the race is thicker

than the Trysting Tree golf course rough.

The Ducks are in a tie for seventh place after the first day of play at the all-important NCAA regional tournament. Oregon is locked with five other teams for seventh, and the entire group is only one stroke behind sixthplace UCLA

The Ducks need to hold onto eighth place or better to secure a ticket to the NCAA Championships in Howie-on-the-Hills, Fla., May 23-26.

Senior Jerilyn White is the only Duck among the top 30 individuals in Corvallis. White shot a two-overpar 74 to end the first day in ninth place overall.

If Oregon is unable to finish eighth or better, White may have a chance to compete at the NCAAs if she is one of the top two golfers whose team failed to make the cut. After the first round, White is the top golfer of all teams placed 12th or higher. The pack of teams tied for seventh includes three golfers leading or tied with White.

Freshman Lacy Erickson is the second-best Oregon golfer in Corvallis. Erickson shot a five-over par 77 to finish 31st. Senior Dawn Berry is 45th after shooting a 6-over 78, junior Kathy Cho is 55th with a 7-over 79 and sophomore Megan Heckeroth is 71st with an 82.

Arizona, ranked second nationally, opened a decent lead on the field over the first round in large part because of its top three golfers. Natalie Gulbis leads all individuals after s shot a 68 Thursday, Lorena Ochoa shot a two-under 70 to finish in second, and Anne Lee shot even par to finish fifth overall.

No other team at the regionals has three golfers among the top-20, as Arizona does.

Fourth-place Memphis State, unranked heading into the regional tournament, is the surprise of Corvallis so far. Memphis State is a stroke behind Michigan State, and a stroke ahead of Ohio State. UCLA is sixth, and the pack in seventh with Oregon includes Southern California, Arizona State, Washington and Tennessee.

Nevada is in 12th place, two strokes behind the seventh-placed pack. Host Oregon State is one stroke behind the Wolfpack. Behind Oregon State lies Furman, Indiana, Missouri, Colorado State, Brigham Young, Southwest Missouri State, Weber State and Central Connecticut State.

The regionals continue today with one 18-hole round and conclude Saturday.

#### Softball

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"It means a lot to us to finish on a good note, especially for Triawn," McMurren said, referring to the team's only remaining senior, first baseman Triawn Custer. "That 7-0 win shows a lot about this team; we still have pride.'

The Ducks hope to inflict their wrath of pride today at Howe Field against the Bears, a team McMurren said she loves to compete against.

"I'm fired up," McMurren said. "Against Cal at home last year, we had our best game of the year. I just like throwing against them; I know their hitters well.

No matter what happens this weekend, the season will end for the Ducks after Saturday's doubleheader with No. 4 Stanford.

'We want to finish on a strong, positive note with Cal and Stanford coming to town," Gamez said. "It's important for us to come out ready to play and finish strong.

In the Bay Area earlier this season, Oregon lost 9-0 to Stanford, then 4-0 and 9-4 to California.

## Women's

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score Pac-10 qualifying marks and extend their seasons.

The main event on the women's side of the Twilight meet - which starts at 4:30 p.m. Saturday - is the 5,000 meter race. That event, which starts at 7:40 pm, is highlighted by U.S. Indoor mile champion Collette Liss.

For some Oregon seniors, a victory lap around Hayward Field — scheduled for 8:05 Saturday night — will mark the last time they hear the roar of the Eugene crowd.

This could be my last home meet," senior thrower Maureen Morrison said. "After five years of working hard, I want my last meet to be my best meet."

Morrison will join vaulters Karina Elstrom and Holly Speight, throwers Sara Dinsmore and Karis Howell and distance runner Hanna Smedstad in the seniors' last lap around Hayward. Smedstad, Morrison and Speight all have good chances to make the NCAA Championships at Hayward Field May 30-June 2.

While the seniors will graduate,

some underclassmen will fight for Pac-10 qualifying marks so they can simply return to the team next

"Our team is very young," Heinonen said. "For some, this is the last chance to be on the team next

Nineteen Oregon athletes have already notched Pac-10 qualifying marks, and several others will shoot for that goal Saturday.

Freshman Annette Mosey has come a few seconds short in the 800 meters and the 1,500. Sophomore Heather Murtaugh could qualify in the 400, while freshman Olivia-Diane Callier has a shot in the 100 hurdles.

In the middle of the oval, most Ducks will look to improve on already-existing Pac-10 marks, or score NCAA marks.

Dominating throwers Mary Etter and Sarah Malone will try to up their national rankings in the discus and javelin, respectively. Etter is sixth nationally, while Malone is third. Niki Reed, fourth nationally in the pole vault, will try to score well and improve her standing in that event.

Several units will try to send as many athletes as possible to the Pac10s so the Ducks can dominate those events. The pole vault unit has four athletes qualified for the Pac-10s, and could add another if senior all-American Karina Elstrom can qualify Saturday. Elstrom has been slowly coming back from an injury she suffered last season, and jumped half a foot short of the Pac-10 mark at the last meet she competed in.

Another unit making an impact is the javelin throwers. Malone is one of the top throwers in the nation, but the Ducks have also qualified Charyl Weingarten and Sara Dinsmorefor the Pac-10s.

Another set of throwers, the hammer throwers, will look to send as many as six athletes to the Pac-10s. Morrison, Etter and sophomore Jordan McDaniels have already qualified for the Pac-10s, and they will compete with freshmen Jamie Burk, Dani Keyser and Jill Hoxmeier this

"Each girl has her own goal in mind," Morrison said. "Everyone wants to make this their best meet.'

The hammer throw will be the first event Saturday, while the last event is the Bill McChesney Jr. Memorial Twilight Mile at 8 p.m.

### Men's

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the NCAA Championships in the 5,000 meters, will be the highlighted entrant for Oregon. Kasahun will participate in the prestigious Bill McChesney Jr. Memorial Mile at 8 p.m. The McChesney Mile is known as one of the fastest miles on American soil and lived up to that reputation last season when five runners, including former Oregon star Steve Fein, broke the four-minute barrier.

"I look forward to running it," Kasahun said. "I seem to run very well at Hayward Field."

Kasahun has the team's best time in the 1,500 meters (3:54.3) this year but has not run the mile. Kasahun's time converts to 4:09.9 in the mile. Olympian Jason Pyrah will return to Eugene to defend his 2000 title.

McChesney Jr. was a running legend at Oregon from 1978 to 1981 and still holds school records in the 5,000 and 10,000 meters. McChesney died in a car accident in 1992.

Three Ducks who already have NCAA provisional marks will look for improved marks to solidify na-

Junior John Bello ranks 21st nationally in the shot but will likely need a three-foot personal best to secure a spot at the NCAA meet. Freshman Trevor Woods is in a similar situation in the pole vault. The Coos Bay native's personal an 1/2 inches, exactly the NCAA provisional mark.

Junior Jason Boness, the defending Pac-10 Champion, will look for an inch to 1/2 inch season best to solidify an NCAA berth in the high jump.

Oregon's throwing corps will be well represented at the Twilight meet. In addition to Bello in the shot put and discus, senior Rian Ingram and sophomore James March will also compete in those events.

Sophomore Adam Kriz will look for an NCAA provisional mark in the hammer throw. Freshman Nick Bakke will compete for the fourth time this season in the javelin.

Footballers A.K. Keyes and Wesley Mallard will return to the track for the third time this season. They're looking for Pac-10 qualifying marks in the 100-meters.

Competing in the 800-meters will be junior Sean Gross and senior Merritt McDole. Freshman Jake Garlick and junior Cody Howell round out the Duck entrants.

Concluding the meet will be the senior's last lap, a jog around Hayward Field for Oregon's departing seniors. The only male seniors are Kasahun, McDole, Lincoln Nehring and javelin thrower Ryan Kieth.

The Twilight meet is free to all students and begins at 5 p.m. with the men's hammer throw.