

# Golfers struggle on day one

■ A rough 11th hole costs the Ducks strokes and leaves them with plenty of work to do in the final two rounds

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The good news? Well, let's start with the bad news first.

The Oregon men's golf team stubbed its toe on the first day of the NCAA West Regional Thursday, shooting a 14-over-par 302 to finish tied for 21st.

Remember, of the 27 teams competing on the Trysting Tree Golf Course in Corvallis this week, only those that finish in the top 10 get to advance to the coveted NCAA Championships.

The Ducks' top finishers were sophomore John Ellis and junior Brandon Harnden, although their identical 3-over 75s have them tied for 74th overall among individuals.

So, once again, the good news? That would be that while most Oregon students were probably still sleeping this morning, the Ducks

were teeing off at 8:15 a.m. and having the opportunity to put Thursday's subpar round behind them.

The other good news for Oregon is that one round does not make a tournament, although Oregon head coach Steve Nosler knows that his team has some serious ground to make up today and Saturday.

"We've certainly got our work cut out for us," Nosler said. "We've got to get after it tomorrow. We need to step up, play like we're capable of and shoot a good score."

There was no doubt amongst the team members what part of Thursday's round affected them the most: the 11th hole. All five Ducks shot a combined 6 over par on that one hole with the wind accounting for most of the problems.

"We're not going to play 11 that poorly again, so we've got to remember that we're still in this thing," Harnden said. "We need to put two

good rounds together and that's what you need to get to nationals."

While the Ducks are 11 places out of the qualifying 10th place, they have reason to believe they can come back, since they are only nine strokes behind 10th-place Pepperdine.

Arizona State (283) holds an early one-stroke lead over Stanford, with Wake Forest, Arizona, UCLA and San Diego State all within striking distance. Host Oregon State also shot a solid round of golf and sits in a tie for seventh place with Washington at 290.

Other Duck finishers included Albany natives Aaron Byers and Chris Carnahan, who both are tied for 92nd after shooting 76, as well as senior Matt Genovese (tied for 106th, 77).

Harnden provided the spark for the Ducks with his back-to-back birdies on holes 13 and 14, and he expects his team to show much improvement today.

"I made a lot of putts today, and I'm pretty happy with that," Harnden said. "But that's about all I had going today. I know every one of us can easily drop a few strokes tomorrow."



# Duck soccer scores three more

■ The Ducks continue to bolster their team with three more top high school recruits

By Jeff Smith  
Oregon Daily Emerald

College coaches are always looking to entice top high school talent from out of state to come join their programs.

Oregon soccer head coach Bill Steffen continued that trend Thursday by announcing the signing of two new recruits from California and one from Hawaii.

Defender Kristen Kanopka and goalkeeper Dominique Lainez are the Californians, while forward Nicole Garbin will be making the trip to Eugene all the way from Maui.

The three new additions join the five already signed this off-season to form a solid 2001 recruiting class for the Ducks, who went 4-15-1 last season and just 1-7-1 in the Pacific-10 Conference.

Garbin appears to be quite a catch for Oregon. She was twice selected as the Player of the Year in Hawaii, and she was awarded that same honor in the Maui League for four years.

"We're tremendously excited about her potential," Steffen said. "We lose some players from the central midfield position, and Nicole is an extremely capable

player in that role. The timing is great for her to step in. She can really help us in a lot of areas.

"She's very competitive, and she likes to win."

Kanopka could also have the chance to have an immediate impact on the Ducks after participating for Fram, a premier soccer club in Northern California. The Redondo Beach, Calif., native seems to fit one of the ingredients that Steffen was searching for.

"She's an exciting defender with good athleticism," Steffen said. "Kristen has a good defending mentality. She has experience at competing at the highest levels of soccer."

The Ducks' final recruit, Lainez, will add depth to Oregon's traditionally strong goalkeeping corps. The San Bruno, Calif., native also has experience at a high level as she was a member of the Cal North Olympic Development Program.

The only question mark about Lainez is whether she can fully bounce back from a broken foot and a torn anterior cruciate ligament she suffered last year, but Steffen doesn't believe that'll be a problem.

"Dominique has a tremendous athletic build and impressive quickness," Steffen said. "She may be a player that slipped through the cracks, since she's been injured this past year. She's capable of playing at extremely high levels."

Oregon opens its 2001 season at home Aug. 31 against Gonzaga.



## Women

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straight last-place performance at this weekend's Pac-10 meet in Berkeley, Calif. If the meet were scored right now, based solely on season bests, the Ducks would score 42 points overall, five more than last season's 37-point performance.

"The points are hard to come by in this conference," Oregon head coach Tom Heinonen said. "There are some events where the depth is just astonishing."

The teams score 10 points for a first place, eight for a second-place finish, six for a third and the scoring goes down in one point increments to eighth place. The Ducks have only one athlete who would win her event based on season records.

But for Oregon, there's light at the end of the Bay Bridge Tunnel. The Ducks are strong in several field events, and if athletes in those events can improve this weekend, Oregon could finish seventh or even sixth.

The deepest units — and for the Ducks, the ones most likely to score multiple points — are the pole vaulters, javelin throwers, hammer throwers and discus throwers.

Oregon junior Niki Reed leads the vaulters and will face stiff com-

petition in the event.

"The Pac-10 has one of the toughest vaulting fields I'll see all season," Reed said. "But I like a challenge. If I just had to jump my opening height to win, it wouldn't be fun."

Reed, ranked fourth in the conference, leads a group of five vaulters into the competition.

"The pole vault's been a really good event for us this year," Heinonen said.

Another strong crew for Oregon is the javelin throwers. Led by freshman standout Sarah Malone, the

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Tom Heinonen  
Oregon head coach

unit includes sophomore Charyl Weingarten, senior Sara Dinsmore, senior Karis Howell and sophomore Jordan McDaniels. Malone is first in the conference and second in the nation, while Weingarten is fifth in the conference.

Despite going head-to-head with some of the nation's top javelin athletes, Malone said she isn't feeling the pressure.

"I feel some pressure, but not too much," Malone said. "I'll see the same sort of competition at the Pac-

10s as the NCAAs."

Mary Etter, Oregon's top discus thrower, is also looking to score big at the Pac-10s. Etter is currently ranked second in the Pac-10 and seventh in the nation. If she can surpass UCLA's Chaniqua Ross, she will gain an extra two points for the Ducks.

Joining Etter in the discus are senior Maureen Morrison, ranked eighth in the conference, freshman Jamie Burk and McDaniels. Morrison could also compete in the hammer throw, while McDaniels will pull triple duty in the hammer, discus and javelin.

On the track, the Ducks are led by senior distance runner Hanna Smedstad and sophomore Eri McDonald.

Smedstad, a transfer from Oklahoma State who joined the Ducks this season, ranks fourth in the Pac-10 in the 10,000-meter race. Smedstad is also among the conference leaders in the 1,500.

McDonald qualified for the 800, in which she ranks eighth, and also qualified for the 1,500 with Smedstad.

All told, Heinonen hopes this year's team can avoid repeating history.

"We're a young team," Heinonen said. "But I think we can do better this year."

With a little improvement, a little luck and a lot of skill in the right places, the Ducks might be able to do just that.

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