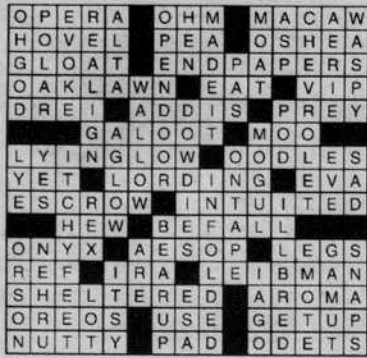


Today's crossword solution



# UO men's golf looks for repeat win

■ Oregon aims to take the Western Intercollegiate tourney for the second straight year

By Jesse Thomas for the Emerald

No bogies about it for the Oregon men's golf team. The 2001 defending Western Intercollegiate champions begin play today at the tournament, the oldest collegiate golf competition west of the Mississippi River, to try and run away with the title once again. Last year, the Ducks blew away the field, winning by 17 strokes over Washington. Four of the five men who competed last year will

play again, which provides a strong outlook as they face the rest of the 16-team field for the 56th annual competition.

"It is not unrealistic that we can play with the best teams," Oregon head coach Steve Nosler said.

Oregon has momentum on its side after winning the Oregon Duck Invitational at the end of March by a one stroke margin over Washington. The Ducks had four of the five men under par on the last day. Oregon was also very strong with a second-place finish in the Cleveland Southwest Intercollegiate held March 4 and 5.

The same squad that gave the Ducks success in the past two tour-

naments will be leading the way once again. Senior Aaron Byers will play in the first position, with juniors John Ellis and Chris Carnahan at the second and third spots, respectively, followed by senior Brandon Harnden at fourth and sophomore Mike Sica holding up the fifth position.

"It is a matter of confidence," Nosler said. "My focus is to have the guys prepared and going down with a solid mental attitude. If we play like we did at our home tournament, we can win."

After the conclusion of the Western Intercollegiate, Oregon heads to the Thunderbird Invitational in San Jose, Calif. In the long run, the Ducks have their eyes set on the Pac-10 Championships, which begin April 25 at the Trysting Tree Golf Course in Corvallis.

History is on the Ducks' side, as they have a long tradition with the Western Intercollegiate and more individual wins in tournament play than any other school. The list includes golf greats like Peter Jacobsen, Cam Martin, Ted Snavely and Doug DuChateau.

Jesse Thomas is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.



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# Women build confidence in final golf round

■ The Ducks came firing back Sunday in the Ping/ASU Invitational to shoot their lowest single round of the season

By Jesse Thomas for the Emerald

When faced with adversity, real athletes dig deeper.

The Oregon women's golf team are the perfect example. After struggling through the first two rounds of the Ping/ASU Invitational, the Oregon women came firing back in the final round to shoot their lowest single round score this season. Oregon shot a 297 in the final round to place 14th overall.

Hoping to shoot below a 308 in each round, Oregon shot a dismal 314 in the first round Friday to put them in last place. Round two did not go any smoother for the women, as they finished with 316 Saturday, but they had good reason. The entire tournament average was down two strokes in the second round because of horrible winds, but the Ducks were still in 15th place. Then in the final round they turned it all around.

"We had a great team meeting (Saturday) night," Oregon head coach Shannon Rouillard said. "We decided to enjoy the day, have fun and just play golf. I am really proud of them, and they came through

when they really needed to."

In individual standings, senior Kathy Cho finished first for Oregon in a tie for 31st with a final-round 75 for a final 225. Freshman Johnna Nealy shot a final-round-best 74 to place her in a tie for 46th. Freshman Jess Carlyon and sophomore Lacy Erickson also finished strong with final rounds of 75 and 73 to place in ties for 72nd and 76th, respectively.

Tulsa was able to hold onto the lead to take the title with a final round 286 after moving up from a tie in sixth into first after second round play. Arizona State finished second, six shots back with a final score of 877. In third place, Arizona shot a fi-

nal round of 290 for a total of 881 in the tournament. Oregon finished in 14th place out of the 15-team field.

"This was a huge confidence builder and gives us so much to look forward to," Rouillard said. "It was a complete team effort."

Oregon has a two-week break before beginning the Pac-10 Championships on April 22 at the Walla Walla Country Club in Washington.

The Ducks are not worrying about Pac-10s, Rouillard said, although they are already looking forward to what they need to do in regionals, which begins the first week in May, in order to make it to nationals. What it comes down to is the short game with chipping and putting, Rouillard said.

Jesse Thomas is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.





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## Women's track

continued from page 11

was good enough to become her career best and earned Etter another NCAA provisional mark.

"Although (Guante) got me by a little, we both got personal bests, and it was neat that she got her first provisional mark," Etter said of her friendly rival. "I was more disappointed that I didn't quite get my goal of 50 feet, but a PR is a good way to start off."

In all, the Oregon women took control of the field events in Texas and earned impressive marks, including personal bests and season bests.

As expected, the Ducks' javelin squad made the competition look as though it was held at Hayward Field.

Sophomore Sarah Malone, already in mid-season form, upped her career best by more than five feet. Her mark of 179-2 easily gave her the win. She threw 13 feet farther than the second place winner, teammate Elisa Crumley.

"I'm fired up," Malone said. "I felt really quick and relaxed on the runway. This is also a fun meet to compete at, because it's like an NCAA Championship with its crowd and multi-day format."

Of course, Texas did host the 1985 NCAA Championships, which was the last time the Oregon women finished first in the country. Mike A. Myers Stadium, the site of the 75th Texas Relays, was not built until 1999 but must've felt like home to the Oregon field squad.

Crumley helped further perpetuate that feeling by placing second in the event with a mark of 166-1, a career best for the freshman from Hillsboro.

"Today was a great experience, because I was excited to see what I could do against a great field," Crumley said. "We were ready for

the headwinds and brought the correct javelins and were ready for big marks."

A day earlier, on Friday, sophomore Charyl Weingarten started off the Oregon women with a big mark. Her throw of 155-1 was good enough to take the javelin "B" section and was just five inches short of her personal best.

Weingarten's throw, a season best and one that earned her a NCAA provisional mark, easily defeated the rest of the field, outdistancing Angelo State's Amber Miller (144-11) and Nevada's Sara Coleman (144-9).

"I'm moving forward, and that's what you're supposed to be doing this time of the year, but there's more to work on with my technique," Weingarten said. "My arm wasn't in a straight sideways position — I need to get my arm a little longer and wider — then again, I can't complain about my strength and speed."

In what may be a vital sign of Oregon's season, junior Becky Holliday earned her first mark of the outdoor season, taking the pole vaulting competition with a height of 13-7 1/4, easily defeating Texas A&M's Erica Boren (12-5 1/2). The throw claimed Holliday an NCAA automatic mark, and sets in motion what could easily be an All-American season for the transfer from Clackamas.

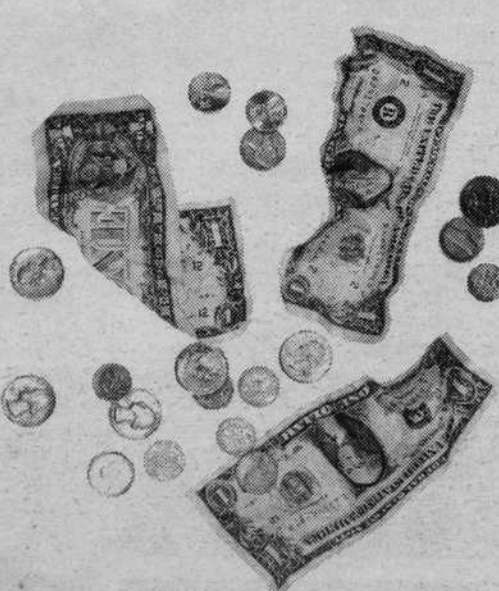
After no-heighting last week at Arizona State, Holliday was happy to get back on track.

"I haven't no-heighted in two years, so I needed to adjust some things," she said. "I went from an eight-step approach, to switching to a nine-step approach this week, and everything seemed to click."

Rounding out the day for Oregon, sophomore Kirsten Riley vaulted at a height of 11-11 3/4 to take seventh in the event.

E-mail sports reporter Hank Hager at hankhager@dailyemerald.com.

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