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Freshmen lead UO into opener

The Duck golfers open with three freshmen in the lineup as they head to Illinois

Jon Roetman
Sports Freelancer

The Oregon men's golf team opens its fall season Monday, sending a mixture of youth and experience to the two-day Windon Memorial Classic at the Glen View Club in Glenview, Ill.

Two seniors and three freshmen represent the Ducks, one of three teams from the West Coast among the 12 in the field. Traditional powers Duke, Louisiana State and Oklahoma State stand in the way of the Ducks. Florida State, Georgia Southern, Houston, Kent State, North Florida, Stanford, California-Davis and host Northwestern round out the field.

This is the Ducks' first appearance in the Windon Memorial Classic, which has seen the talent of such golfers as Tiger Woods and Casey Martin.

"It's going to be great to start the season," Oregon head coach Steve Nosler said. "The field looks pretty strong, and I think it's interesting to play some teams that we don't usually see on a completely different venue from what we're accustomed to."

Senior co-captains John Ellis and Chris Carnahan will hold the top two

spots for the Ducks. Ellis, a two-time All-Pacific-10 Conference selection who qualified for match play at the U.S. Amateur, finished last season with a stroke average of 72.7. Carnahan is a three-time All-Pac-10 selection and finished last season averaging 73.4 strokes.

Redshirt freshmen Kyle Johnson and Chris Dukeminier, along with true freshman Gregg LaVoie, round out the Oregon quintet. Despite having seven freshmen on the roster, the emergence of three for the season opener came as a surprise to Nosler.

"It's unusual to have three freshmen playing in a season opener, but that's who came out on top in qualifying, and they deserve a chance to show what they can do," Nosler said.

The members of the team who will not be in competition this weekend include juniors Mike Sica and Jimmy White, and freshmen Matt Amen, Matt Ma, Dustin Pewarchuk and Justin St. Clair.

Oklahoma won the Windon Memorial in 2000, firing a course record 868. Individual honors went to Southern California's Hunter Mahan, who finished with a 213. Last year's tournament was not contested because Northwestern hosted the NCAA Championships.

Teams will play 36 holes on Monday and 18 on Tuesday.

Jon Roetman is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Soccer

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powerful Tar Heels and sending the game to halftime, still 1-0.

Oregon held its own to start the second half but soon lost focus when the Tar Heels came charging to score two goals in less than a minute.

Forward Alyssa Ramsey took a pass from freshman Lindsay Tarpley and dribbled through an Oregon defender, then got past Peters to tap her shot in off the left post.

The Tar Heels soon regained control, and Tarpley got past Oregon's left side unassisted to deliver a line-drive from 25 yards out into the right side of the net to finish the scoring for the day.

The Ducks made one last charge with 10 minutes left. With nine minutes on the clock, Oregon had its only corner kick soar far over the goal. Two minutes later the women saw their only other two shots blocked by the North

Carolina defense.

"As a team we played really well. We came out hard, and we showed them as well as ourselves that we can play with a team that's ranked number one," Peters said.

North Carolina out-shot the Ducks 28-3 and had 13 shots on goal to Oregon's none. Freshmen Carlie Ashcraft and Cristian Higa, along with Mayer, each tallied one shot for Oregon.

The Tar Heels also attempted seven corner kicks to Oregon's one, which added to the defending national champion's success over the Ducks.

"They capitalized on a few of our mistakes, but you always want to play the best opponent you can," Orand said. "This is like a preparation for Pac-10s."

Oregon begins Pacific-10 Conference play Oct. 11. They return to Papé Field to host Portland State on Friday.

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

Carolina

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works. That system has produced gaudy statistics, from the 17 national titles to the six-straight final appearances, the 13-straight national championships, the 14-straight players of the year, the national team members and the women's soccer legends, like Mia Hamm and Kristine Lilly.

Now, Oregon's UNC connections are trying to duplicate that powder-blueprint.

"To have a successful program like that, they're doing things right," Sanchez said. "We want to be where Carolina is."

Steffen, who has traditionally scheduled games against top-tier opponents with the hope of toughening his own squad, said playing the

top-ranked Tar Heels didn't faze his team in the slightest.

"You don't need to hype a game with North Carolina," Steffen said. "It's exciting for the players. It's a challenge."

Steffen said his team was excited about the strong play of its defense and goalkeeper. For the 1-5-1 Ducks, any glimmer of good play is a positive.

"This is the type of game we need to learn from," Steffen said.

"The Ducks are just continuing to get better," said Dorrance, whose Tar Heels last played Oregon in 2000, a 6-0 North Carolina clobbering of the Ducks.

That's high praise from a man who earned the indirect accolades of Dean Smith.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.

In Person

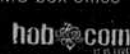
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