

## **Ducks set for Cleveland**

The men's golfers will compete in third spring tournament in California today and Tuesday

Golf

Scott Archer

Freelance Sports Reporter After a two-week break from competition, the Oregon men's golf team travels to Westlake Village, Calif., today to compete in the Cleveland Golf Classic. Oregon, which already has two tournament appearances under its belt in the spring season, looks to improve its play in yet another competition featuring elite teams.

The Ducks will play two rounds Monday and one Tuesday at the 6,815-yard, par-71 North Ranch Country Club. Eleven of the 17 teams in the field are ranked in the most recent Golfweek Top 25. Headlining the tournament are No. 8 UCLA, No. 16 Pepperdine, No. 20 Washington and No. 25 Tennessee. Arizona State, Brigham Young, California, California-Santa Barbara, Fresno State, Houston, Ohio State, Oklahoma. Oregon State, San Diego State, Stanford and USC round out the field.

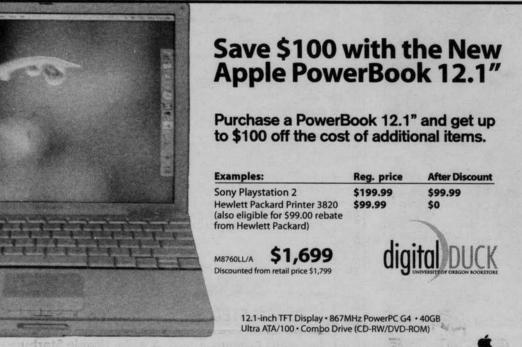
"It seems we see a strong field everywhere we go," head coach Steve Nosler said. "But we had some very nice competitive qualifiers and will be sending a pretty experienced group out there this week."

Making the trip south for the Ducks will be seniors John Ellis and Chris Carnahan, juniors Jimmy White and Mike Sica, and freshman Gregg LaVoie.

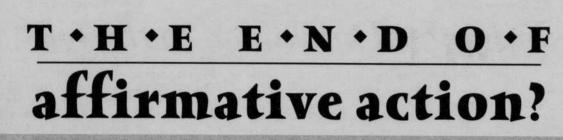
Those same five members represented Oregon in its last tournament appearance Feb. 12-14 in Waikoloa, Hawaii. Oregon finished that tournament in 14th before its two-week break. UCLA, which Oregon has faced in every tournament in its young spring season and will again see today, won the Taylor Made/Waikoloa Intercollegiate after finishing second in the first tournament of the spring for the teams, the Ping Arizona Intercollegiate, Feb. 3-4.

The Ducks finished 14th in both of their first two tournaments, snapping their streak of 12 consecutive top-10 finishes, discounting last year's NCAA regional tournament. The streak dated back to last year's Cleveland Golf Classic March 4-5. Oregon finished tied for second. Ellis, then a junior, finished in eighth place, followed by Carnahan, who finished 20th. Sica also competed last year finishing tied for 48th overall.

Scott Archer is a freelance writer for the Emerald.



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### Women nearly nip No. 4-ranked Bears The No. 37 Oregon women's straight-set victories in the four

Tennis

The No. 37 Oregon women's tennis team falls to No. 4 California and No. 3 Stanford

For a split second during the

Oregon women's tennis team's 4-3

loss to No. 4 California on Sunday,

the Student Tennis Center was

completely silent. But only for a

Gieczys, ranked 89 nationally, battled No. 45 Christina Fusano from

down 5-2 in the third and final set

to force a tiebreaker that would

decide the winner of the dual

match between the Ducks and

Fusano's favor, Gieczys watched

her slicing forehand sail wide of the

white line just before the short-

As Gieczys sat physically and emotionally drained, face pressed

in a towel, her teammates consol-

ing her, the silence was replaced

The match started with the No.

37 Ducks losing the doubles point

despite an 8-4 victory by No. 38

Courtney Nagle/Daria Panova over No. 11 Raquel Kops-Jones/Fusano.

The Golden Bears promptly took

With the tiebreaker score 7-6 in

Duck senior captain Monika

**Ryan Heath** 

split second.

Golden Bears. .

lived silence.

with applause.

Sports Freelance Writer

and five singles matches, forcing the Ducks into a must-win situation in the remaining four matches. No. 16 Panova ousted No. 13

Kops-Jones 6-4, 6-1 and freshman Anna Leksinska took a 6-4, 7-5 win from the sixth spot. No. 52 Nagle tied up the dual match with a 6-3, 5-7, 6-2 victory, setting the stage for Giezcys' pivotal set.

The loss came on the heels of a 7-0 losing effort against No. 3 Stanford where the Ducks (9-5) were unable to win a set. The Cardinal has a squad that boasts the No. 1 doubles team in the nation as well as four singles players in the top 50.

#### Men also fall

The No. 65 men didn't fare much better this weekend. The Ducks (7-3) lost to No. 10 Washington 6-1 on Friday and were unable to capitalize on a doubles point victory against No. 55 Purdue on Saturday as the Boilermakers won 5-2.

The lone point from Friday's loss came when Washington's Ari Strasberg retired with Duck junior Sven Swinnen leading 3-0 in the final set.

The loss snapped a six-game Duck winning streak, dating back to late January.

Ryan Heath is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Niki McEwen won the pole vault competition with a clearance of 13 feet, 9 1/4 inches at the Pacific-10 Conference Invitational in Seattle on Saturday. Kirsten Riley finished

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### reduced

Woods' conviction

Sports briefs

Rodney Woods, the Oregon defensive back recruit who pleaded no contest to a felony assault charge in 2000, had his conviction reduced to a misdemeanor in a Lancaster, Calif., court Friday.

The ruling clears the way for Woods to attend Oregon. Woods signed a letter of intent with the Ducks, but Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti and Athletic Director Bill Moos stated that the letter was conditional, and only if the recruit had his sentance reduced could he play football for the Ducks.

-Peter Hockaday

### **Pole position**

It seems the Oregon women's pole vaulters don't need any outside competition this year. There's enough within the team.

### third and moved up the provisional list with a clearance of 13-1 3/4.

Meanwhile, on the men's side of the action, freshman hurdler Eric Mitchum won the 60-meter hurdles in 7.87 seconds, his first NCAA provisional time. The men also notched two other wins and nine personal or season bests in Seattle.

- Peter Hockaday

### Softball rained out

No. 22 Oregon received a vacation weekend early when the Red Desert Classic Softball Tournament was canceled Friday due to inclement weather and poor field conditions.

The Ducks travel to San Jose, Calif., for games against Georgia Tech and Northern Illinois on Friday.

-Mindi Rice