

# Golfers look forward to 3-week break

The Ducks have been faltering of late, and need the three-week vacation before hosting the Duck Invitational March 24-25

## Men's golf

Scott Archer  
Freelance Sports Reporter

Three tournaments. Three-straight sub-top-10 finishes. Three weeks of rest. If good things come in threes, then the Oregon men's golf team is hoping the reverse holds true and the trend can turn itself around.

"We were not nearly as success-

ful as I would like to have seen," head coach Steve Nosler said about his team's most recent tournament appearance. "We have not been playing complete tournaments lately."

Oregon, coming off its third tournament of the spring season, finished 13th at the Cleveland Golf Classic on Tuesday and will have three weeks off before it hosts the Duck Invitational in Eugene March 24-25.

"I'm surprised just how well we've played and ending up as far back (in the field) as we've been," Nosler said. "We haven't been as competitive as I thought we could be."

The Ducks' recent struggles

have often come after a successful opening round, causing Nosler to search for answers to Oregon's mid-tournament slides.

"We have played well in opening rounds, in middle rounds we have played poor and then played well again in the final rounds," Nosler said. "We are having the most difficulty with the second round of 36 holes. It could be a concentration thing, which is something we need to get a gut-check on."

There is one silver lining in all this. Oregon, playing in the most loaded conference in the nation, has played even with many teams that have come on strong as of late.

"The Pacific-10 conference is by

far the strongest in the nation, that's not even a question," Nosler said. "Arizona State has played well all three times we have seen them."

The Ducks have been right on the heels of such teams as Arizona State and Stanford. The Ducks out-played Arizona State in the second round of the Cleveland Golf Classic, drew even in the third round but were unable to match Arizona State's amazing first-round score, distancing itself from the Ducks. Stanford beat Oregon for the first time this spring season in the Cleveland Golf Classic, making that its only win in five tries against the Ducks in the 2002-03 season.

Oregon will travel to Seattle during the weekend where it will have a 36-hole four-way match against Washington, Oregon State and Western Washington on Saturday. The competition will not count toward any official standings, but will give the Ducks a chance to play the field where the NCAA West Regionals will be held, assuming the Ducks can qualify.

"I hope renewed confidence can come out of all this," Nosler said. "We do have the talent and can shoot the numbers to compete, we just need it sooner rather than later."

Scott Archer is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

# Women take ninth at Founder's Day tourney

Sophomore Johnna Nealy ties a Duck record on the first day of the tournament in Nevada

## Women's golf

Scott Archer  
Freelance Sports Reporter

Sophomore Johnna Nealy led the Oregon Ducks in style Wednesday as the team captured

ninth place in its first spring tournament of the year.

Oregon, which hasn't played in a tournament since it finished 11th in the UNLV Founder's Day Club Tournament, Nov. 12-13, shot 305 and 307 in the first two rounds Tuesday and followed that performance with a team score of 309 Wednesday. Oregon finished with a combined 921 in the 14-team tournament at the Corral de Tierra Country Club, a par-72,

5,938-yard course.

Nealy, who shot a career-low 69 in the first round, followed her Oregon record-scoring round with a 75-stroke second round, and a 77-stroke third. Nealy, who tied an Oregon sophomore record previously set by former Duck Jerilyn White, concluded the Tournament tied for seventh place with a combined score of 221.

"She played an incredible round of golf (Tuesday)," head coach

Shannon Rouillard. "I am really proud of her."

Freshman Therese Wenslow improved by 11 strokes on Wednesday from her first round score, to finish in a tie for 40th overall, followed closely by fellow freshman Erin Andrews, who finished 45th overall. Freshman Michelle Timpani finished tied for 55 with a score of 239, followed by sophomore Jess Carlyon who ended up 60th overall with a two day total of 242.

Pepperdine ran away with the team title after a team score of 846 had it 36 strokes ahead of second-place UCLA. Katherine Hull of Pepperdine was the individual winner with a 16-under par 221.

Oregon has little rest before it hosts the Oregon Duck Invitational at Shadow Hills Country Club, March 10-11.

Scott Archer is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

# Sharks star Nolan traded to Toronto

Mark Emmons and David Pollak  
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Goodbye, Owen Nolan. We hardly knew ya.

But then that's exactly the way Nolan, the Sharks captain who was traded Wednesday to Toronto, wanted it.

Oh, sure. Little tidbits about Nolan's off-the-ice life were public knowledge. That he is the co-owner of two British pubs in San Jose. That he was married to a local woman last summer and that she's expecting their first child. That he likes to cook. That he owns a piece of land on Mount Hamilton, where he goes to hunt.

That he ... actually, that's about it. An intensely private man, Nolan went to great lengths to keep his personal life, well, personal.

"I look at actors, and I don't know how they deal with paparazzi following them around all the time," Nolan, 31, told the Mercury News two years ago. Away from the rink, he added, "I'd rather be Joe Schmoe on the street like everyone else. It's just the way I am."

And that's the way it was. For years, he has been San Jose's most prominent athlete. He has been the heart and soul of the Sharks but rarely was the team's voice, and the introverted Nolan

leaves the Bay Area something of a mystery man. A tough right wing as good with his fists as with his stick, Nolan even became something of a scapegoat as the Sharks' hopes for a Stanley Cup this season disintegrated in spectacular fashion.

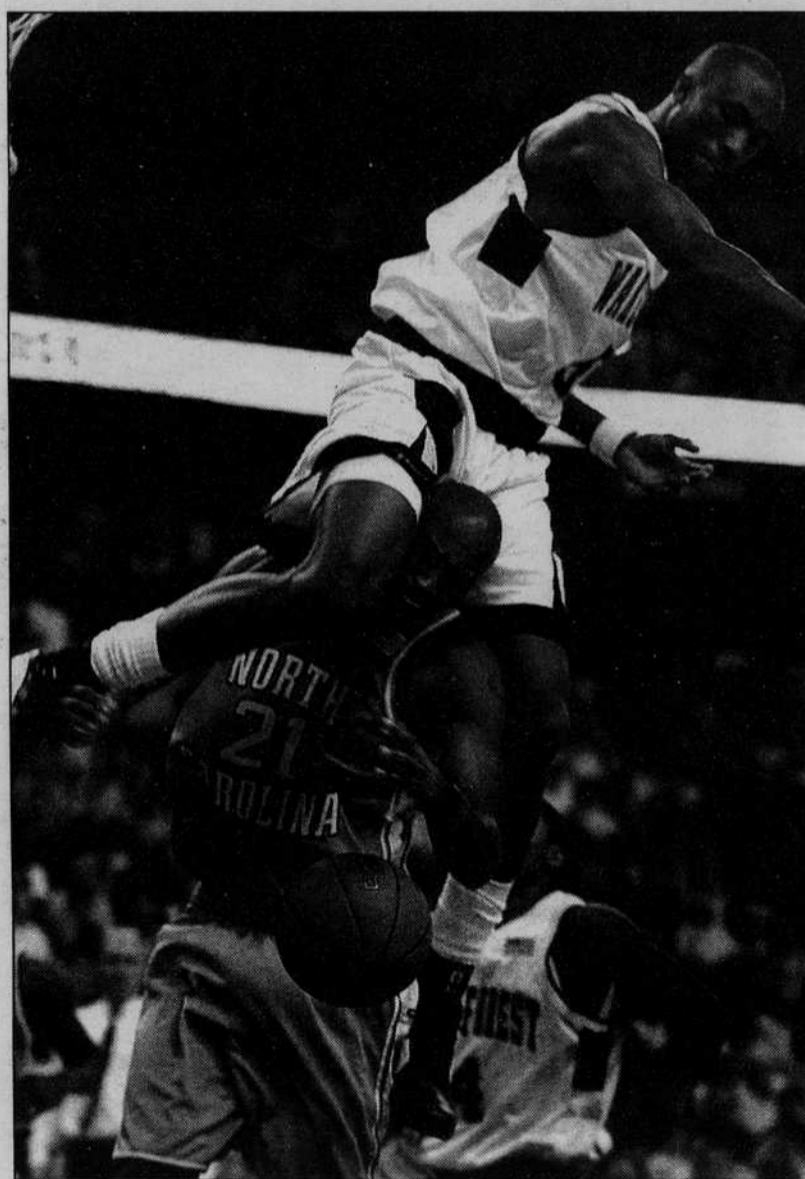
When General Manager Dean Lombardi recently made veiled comments about an unnamed "cancer" on the team, Nolan was the prime suspect — fair or not. His leadership ability has been questioned, and he has been described as a moody sourpuss who is not particularly well-liked by his teammates, albeit usually in anonymous quotes.

But while many hockey players come across as boring in interviews, Nolan takes a different tack: He tries to avoid the media as much as possible. He has been known to walk into the team's training facility, spot reporters and then duck into a side room.

For several weeks, it was apparent that Nolan was available for the right price. Still, just last Thursday, when asked about a possible trade from San Jose, Nolan said, "It would be disheartening."

© 2003, San Jose Mercury News (San Jose, Calif.). Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.

## Climbing the ladder



Wake Forest's Josh Howard climbs all over North Carolina's Jawad Williams in Wake's 75-60 win Wednesday night. The Demon Deacons clinched at least a share of the ACC regular-season title with the win.  
Patrick Schneider Charlotte Observer (KRT)

# Suns, playing David role to NBA's Goliaths, beat up Blazers

Mike Tulumello  
East Valley Tribune (Mesa, Ariz.) (KRT)

PHOENIX — It's one of the mysteries of the known universe. Or at least of the NBA.

How can a team like the Suns — better than average, but no world beaters — struggle against the likes of lightweights Chicago, Toronto, and New York, but continue a mas-

tery of such elite teams as San Antonio and Portland?

The unpredictable Suns, followed up their huge road upset of the Spurs (the NBA's best team since New Year's Day) by edging the Trail Blazers, 98-92, on Wednesday night at America West Arena.

The Suns (33-28) now are 3-0 against the Blazers (39-21) this sea-

son; they've beaten them eight of the past 11 times. Against San Antonio, the Suns are 2-1 this season and have won 16 of the past 28.

An explanation, please.

"I can't explain it," said Stephon Marbury, who once again played brilliantly. One night after playing all 48 minutes vs. the Spurs, he went 46 minutes against the Blazers and

scored 33 points.

Strangely enough, on the night that Penny Hardaway played for the first time in two months, it was actually another of the Suns' recently returned players who was a major factor.

Tom Gugliotta had 12 points, five rebounds, four assists and two steals. He shot a perfect 5-for-5 from the field. Much like the game vs. the Spurs,

the Suns led nearly wire to wire. Once again, they faltered early in the final quarter, only to right themselves.

By winning, the Suns continue to lead the Houston Rockets for the No. 8 (and final) playoff spot in the West by two games.

© 2003, East Valley Tribune (Mesa, Arizona). Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.