

Golfers finish fourth at Calif. tournament

Four Duck individuals finish in top 30, led by junior Mike Sica

Men's golf

Scott Archer
Freelance Sports Reporter

What started out as an impressive beginning to the 57th annual Western Intercollegiate was even better Tuesday as Oregon was able to hold its position from the opening two rounds to finish the tournament fourth overall. It was Oregon's first top-5 finish — other than its own Oregon Duck Invitational — since the California Invitational Oct. 14-15.

The Ducks shot a final-round 291 to edge Pacific by one stroke, however,

the Ducks were out-dueled by third-place finisher Texas El Paso and finished only one stroke behind UTEP.

Junior Mike Sica concluded the tournament with a career best finish after shooting his second consecutive even-par round of 70. Sica led three other Ducks in the top 30 overall. Sica finished the tournament in a tie for 10th overall after shooting rounds of 74-70-70 for a four-over 214. Sica's previous best finish was a tie for 12th at the Alister Mackenzie Invitational last October.

No. 10 UCLA held on for the tournament victory after posting a 13-stroke lead over second place finisher UC Irvine after the first two rounds of competition. UC Irvine came within seven strokes of

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Steve Nosler
Oregon head coach

UCLA. Steve Conway of UCLA won the individual title after shooting a two-under 208.

Another notable finisher for the Ducks was senior Chris Carnahan's 14th-place finish at 217 for the three-round tournament. John Ellis followed that with a 26th-place finish at 221. Redshirt Freshman Kyle Johnson, in his first varsity appear-

ance since the Club Grove Intercollegiate Oct. 7-8, concluded the tournament tied for 30th overall at 222. Johnson was one off his career low Tuesday in which he shot a final round one-over 71.

"I'm quite pleased with our performances," coach Steve Nosler said. "The greens were very fast today, and we gave some shots away, but we also

made some very good shots."

It was Oregon's fourth-consecutive top-6 finish at 6,445 yard, par-70 Pasatiempo Golf Course.

The Ducks, unsure if their previous play would earn them a bid in next month's NCAA West Regional, helped their cause by defeating 10 of the other 12 District 8 teams.

"I think we helped ourselves quite a bit by finishing higher than most of the teams in our district who were here, including a few who were ranked ahead of us," Nosler said. "This puts us in good shape to go down and have a good tournament at Arizona State."

Scott Archer is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Track

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followed that up with his stellar performance in Texas.

"I'm excited because not too many freshmen hit sub-14 in their first year," Mitchum said. "I'm just excited to be one of the top freshmen in the nation right now."

Mitchum said the older hurdlers on the team, especially 400-meter hurdles star Brandon Holliday, have been supportive.

"I run the 400 hurdles too, so I push him and he pushes me, just some friendly competition,"

Mitchum said.

But the hurdling star of tomorrow still wants to win today.

"I want to go to NCAAs; I want to win Pac-10s as a team," Mitchum said. "I would like to hit about 13.80, 13.70 possibly by the time it's all over with. 13.80 is pretty realistic, 70, that'd be pushing it. But you've got to set your goals high to accomplish them."

Like most wide-eyed freshmen, Mitchum has lofty goals and big dreams. But the difference is, Mitchum just might have the talent to accomplish them.

Ducks dot early rankings

The first ballots are in, and Oregon is on the cusp of being one of the 10 best track programs in the nation.

In the first rankings of the season, released Tuesday by Trackwire.com, the men are ranked 11th in the nation, scoring 23 points in the site's mock national championship meet. The women sit tied for 16th in their version of the national rankings.

As usual, the Pac-10 shows up often in the rankings. On the men's side, USC is ranked No. 5

and Stanford — which edged Oregon for the Pac-10 title last season — sits right behind the Ducks in 12th. On the women's side, USC is No. 4, UCLA is No. 7, Stanford is 14th and Arizona is 23rd.

The Minnesota men's team, one of Oregon's three opponents in the Pepsi Team Invitational on Saturday, are ranked No. 15 in the poll. Colorado and Washington, Oregon's other opponents, aren't ranked.

Power barred

We here at the Emerald hesitate to use the words "track" and "nerd" in the same sentence for fear of be-

ing redundant, but the track nerds at www.team-power.org have disappointed us this week, so we'll use the words freely.

The Web site is the only one which allows the user to pit two teams against each other in head-to-head competition to see who will win. But this early in the season, very few teams have full scores in, so for this weekend we could only pit Washington against... Washington. We won't do this. But watch this space later in the season for constant team-power.org updates.

Contact the sports editor at peterhockaday@dailyemerald.com.

Softball

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National Championship for the

third consecutive year.

Internationally, White helped the USA Men's team to its first gold medal in 18 years at the 2002 Pan Am Qual-

ifier. He earned a perfect 5-0 record, striking out 25 batters in 26 innings pitched. White's team earned the top seed in the 2003 Pan Am games.

The Ducks remain at home this weekend for their conference home opener. Washington comes to town Friday, while Oregon faces

UCLA on Saturday and Sunday.

Contact the sports reporter at mindirice@dailyemerald.com.

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Oregon Daily Emerald

Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 9). Don't let difficulties bog you down this year. Don't let them make you sad or mad. Expect them, and anticipate them ahead of time. Look forward to the challenges.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) _ Today is a 7 _ Don't get too pushy, even if you know you're right. A little bit of compassion gets your point across more effectively.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) _ Today is a 7 _ Don't let yourself be bullied into doing something that you think may not work. You're more practical than someone who outranks you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) _ Today is a 6 _ Are you looking for a promotion or raise? The opportunity could be close at hand. Turn down an outing with friends in favor of a business connection.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) _ Today is a 7 _ Propose a moneymaking scheme to a person who's worried about profits. If it'll work, you'll be a primary beneficiary.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) _ Today is a 7 _ Expect the unexpected while on the job. Double-check all orders before carrying them out. If you stay calm when others don't, you could wind up in charge.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) _ Today is a 7 _ Things are changing quickly, so stay alert.

It's also a good idea to have a few friends helping out. Let them know what you need.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) _ Today is a 6 _ You may have to practice your deep breathing in order to keep a lid on your temper. Your nerves may be a tad on edge. Don't blame the others for it. They're nervous, too.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) _ Today is a 7 _ Others are anxious to take action, but you're not in any rush. You can afford to wait. You're getting stronger in the process.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) _ Today is a 6 _ Everybody knows how generous you are, but you can't afford to do it all. Give freely of your good cheer and advice, but let others pay their own way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) _ Today is a 7 _ Defending your home and family is a top priority. That's why you work so hard _ so that they can have it better. It's OK to let them know that.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) _ Today is a 7 _ The money should start coming in soon, but other problems arise. A method you thought would work might not, so proceed with caution.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) _ Today is a 7 _ What do you think is more effective _ being pushy, or being passive? For now, you'll attract more bees using honey.

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