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Golfers head to regional

The Ducks are seeded No. 18, but that won't matter once the regionals get underway today

Men's golf

Scott Archer
Freelance Sports Reporter

It's been two weeks since the Oregon men's golf team finished seventh in the Pacific-10 Conference Championships, but the Ducks won't be entering this year's NCAA West Regional wide-eyed.

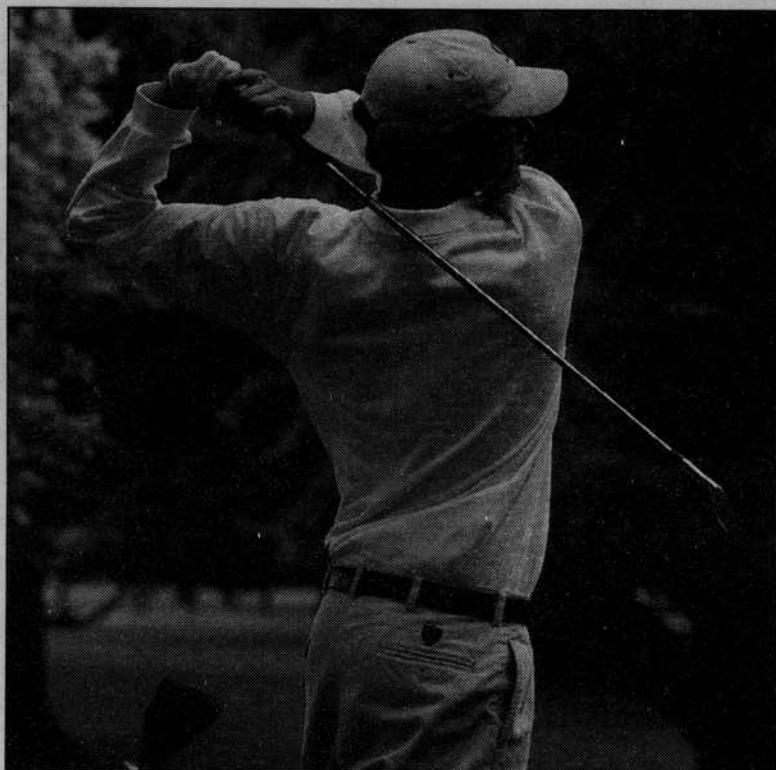
The NCAA Regional — one of three NCAA regional tournaments nationwide — will be hosted by the Washington Huskies at their 7,183-yard, par-72 Washington National Course in Auburn, Wash.

Oregon is making its seventh consecutive NCAA Regional appearance; their 12th in 15 years. This year's squad is the 18th-seeded team of the 27 teams competing. The Ducks will see many familiar faces as nine Pac-10 teams will vie for a spot in the National Championships, along with 10 of the nation's top 30 teams, according to the Golf Week/Sagarin rankings.

The top 10 teams from each regional, along with two individuals, will advance to the NCAA Championships, slated for May 28 through 30 at Oklahoma State. Auburn and Kansas State are the two other schools hosting NCAA Regionals this week.

Oregon, ranked No. 49 nationally, will be paired with No. 16-seed Texas-El Paso and No. 17 Denver, teeing off at 7:12 a.m. today on the first hole. After the first two rounds, teams are re-seeded according to their standings.

Although the NCAA West Regional is nothing new to the Ducks, only three of the five participating Ducks have seen any postseason action.



Danielle Hickey Emerald

Chris Carnahan will look to improve on his regional performance from last year.

All-Pac-10 first team member senior John Ellis is making his third NCAA Regional appearance. Ellis' best finish came last year when he finished tied for 29th overall.

Senior captain Chris Carnahan is making his fourth NCAA Regional appearance, however, Carnahan has yet to notch a top-50 finish. Junior Mike Sica is participating in his second NCAA Regional, while redshirt freshman Kyle Johnson and true freshman Gregg LaVoie will get their first taste of postseason play.

The Ducks finished last year's NCAA Regional tied for 13th overall and haven't advanced to the NCAA Championships since the team did it

in back-to-back seasons in 1998-99. Oregon was then led by current PGA tour member Ben Crane.

Women advance in U.S. Open qualifier

Senior Annie Davis and freshmen Erin Andrews and Therese Wenslow have clinched a spot in next month's sectional qualifying round of the U.S. Women's Open. The three advanced to the sectionals after finishing among the top 14 in Tuesday's U.S. Women's Open local qualifying tournament in Portland.

Scott Archer is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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Baseball

continued from page 11

California," Krause said, adding that the top Oregon signees often turned professional. "We had good college players, but at the end, we didn't have as many as we normally had."

Wrestling, which had also been on thin ice before 1981, won the Pac-10 title that year. The team originally folded, but was then reinstated.

"I wish there was some way to get that back there," said Lees, also the head coach of the Eugene Pepsi Challengers, an American Legion club. "I know that with Title IX and money for this and money for that, but I just can't believe it wouldn't survive. It would. There are too many people around that would make it survive."

Dave Williford, assistant athletic director for media services, said the same obstacles that presented themselves in 1981 would pop up again. A new team would face Title IX and budgetary issues again.

The Ducks had a long history in baseball before the dreaded day came. As Oregon's oldest program, the sport began play in 1877. It didn't start regularly until 1885, and save for a break during World War II from 1944-45, didn't have a hiccup in play until 1981.

The Ducks saw the postseason twice, making it as far as the College World Series in 1954. The team bowed out in two games — a 5-3 loss to Massachusetts and a 12-1 blowout to Arizona — but

had won three games previously in the tournament.

In the years since Duck baseball went the way of the dodo, Donny Harrel resurrected a program at Lane that once laid dormant. Cut in 1991, the Titans also failed to field a team for five years. However, that ended when the school brought them back in 1995. Now, the school is faced once again with the loss of baseball.

On April 28, the LCC Board voted to cut baseball and volleyball. After next season, Titan baseball will be no more.

"It's frustrating because I fought hard to get this thing back in '92," Harrel said. "Just the thought of keeping it alive was important to a lot of people."

The Titans have flourished this season, posting a 30-10 overall record and a 25-5 ledger in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges. Last season, Harrel said, the Titans sent 11 of 12 eligible players to four-year schools. He is just as proud of that figure as this year's record.

"That's our job as a JC," he said. "It's a stepping stone and we've done our job as good as we can do. We've given plenty of opportunities for kids to move on."

"That's what hurts. We're showing that we're doing the job. And through budget crises, that's just not something that comes up in the matter."

Contact the sports reporter at hankhager@dailymerald.com.

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