

Oregon head coach Steve Nosler compared John Ellis (pictured) to Ben Crane when he was a Duck. Crane recently won his first PGA Tour event. Danielle Hickey Emerald

Golf readies for NCAAs

Oregon heads to Oklahoma for the NCAA Championships after a four-year hiatus

Golf notes

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Oregon is headed into uncharted territory next week when the team heads to the NCAA Championship May 27-30 at Karsten Golf Course in Stillwater, Okla.

The Ducks earned the automatic berth after staving off Texas-El Paso by one stroke to finish in the top 10 and clinch a berth in next week's championship.

However, at least one current Duck was on the roster when Oregon made its last NCAA Championships appearance in 1999. Senior Chris Carnahan was then just a redshirt freshman, and Oregon was led by Ryan LaVoie, brother of current freshman Gregg LaVoie, and current PGA member Ben Crane.

Oregon's PGA ties

Although Oregon hasn't won any NCAA Championships in the history of the program, several former Ducks are currently representing

the program well.

Former Duck Ben Crane, who was on the last Oregon team that made it to the NCAA Championships, won the PGA's Bellsouth Classic earlier this year. Crane also has won the 2001 Gila River Classic and the 2000 Wichita Open. Crane most recently earned his spot on the 2003 PGA Tour after tying for second at the 2002 Byron Nelson Classic.

Class of 1982 graduate Eric Johnson also represents the Ducks on the tour, along with Thomas Shaw, who was a 1960 All-American.

And who could forget Portland native and former Duck Peter Jacobsen, who is in his 27th year on the tour.

Currently, Oregon senior co-captain John Ellis is competing in the U.S. Qualifying tournament. Oregon head coach Steve Nosler has compared Ellis to Crane, however, only to mention that Ellis is a better player than when Crane was a senior.

No-nonsense Nosler

He isn't as well known as Mike Bellotti, Ernie Kent or even Bev Smith, but Oregon men's golf head coach Steve Nosler has distinguished himself among Ore-

gon's greatest coaches. Nosler is serving his 11th season at the Duck helm after he graduated from Oregon in 1959. He earned the 1997 Pacific-10 Conference Coach of the Year award and has guided the Ducks to seven-straight NCAA Regional tournaments and three NCAA Championships appearances.

After graduating from Oregon, Nosler was commissioned as the 2nd Lieutenant in the Army. After seven and a half years of active duty where he earned the rank of captain, Nosler returned to his hometown of Eugene and began his involvement in the Oregon golf community. Nosler is seeking his first NCAA Championship as a head coach next week.

Scott Archer is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Tennis

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the conditions," Panova said Tuesday in an interview with gatorzone.com. "It wasn't as hot today as yesterday. I couldn't believe how hot it was yesterday."

No. 15 Panova made short work of Cal's Christina Fusano, winning in straight sets in a match that lasted a little less than two hours. No. 25 Fusano beat Panova in the quarterfinals of the preseason ITA Regionals in October but didn't have enough to take the Ducks' No. 1 Tuesday.

"She plays really hard for me and leaves the ball," Panova said. "I just tried to make as many balls as I could and wait for my shot to kill."

Panova takes on No. 8 Jewel Peterson of Southern California today. Peterson took down North Carolina's Marlene Mejia in straight sets to advance to the round of 16.

"I feel really good," Panova said. "I play the girl from my conference again, and I know her, so I'm just going to go out and play."

Peterson bested Panova in the only other time they've been matched up this year. The March bout went three sets with Peterson closing it out 3-6, 6-1, 6-1.

Panova will be looking to continue her 11-match tournament winning streak in her first time as the

underdog in these NCAAs.

In a match that lasted less than an hour and a half, the Duck duo of Nagle and Panova beat No. 7 Kendall Cline and Aniela Mojzis of North Carolina in straight sets.

"(Nagle and Panova) are a good team and they should have been seeded in this tournament," Mojzis said. "We were slightly sluggish, and they weren't."

No. 33 Nagle/Panova take on Florida's Alexis Gordon and Julia Scaringe for an opportunity to advance to the quarterfinals today. The Gator squad struggled to a three-set victory over San Diego State's Indra Erichsen and Silvier Tornier in their first round match.


The Ducks are optimistic about their chances.

"I thought we played really well today," Panova said. "We got off to a slow start, but we rebounded and played stronger as the match went on."

The Florida tandem is coming off an NCAA Team Championship and has a home court advantage against the Ducks.

Weather calls for temperatures in the mid-80s in Gainesville and the mid-70s in Athens tomorrow. Both sites for the NCAA Championships are expecting 70 percent humidity and a chance for rain.

Ryan Heath is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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