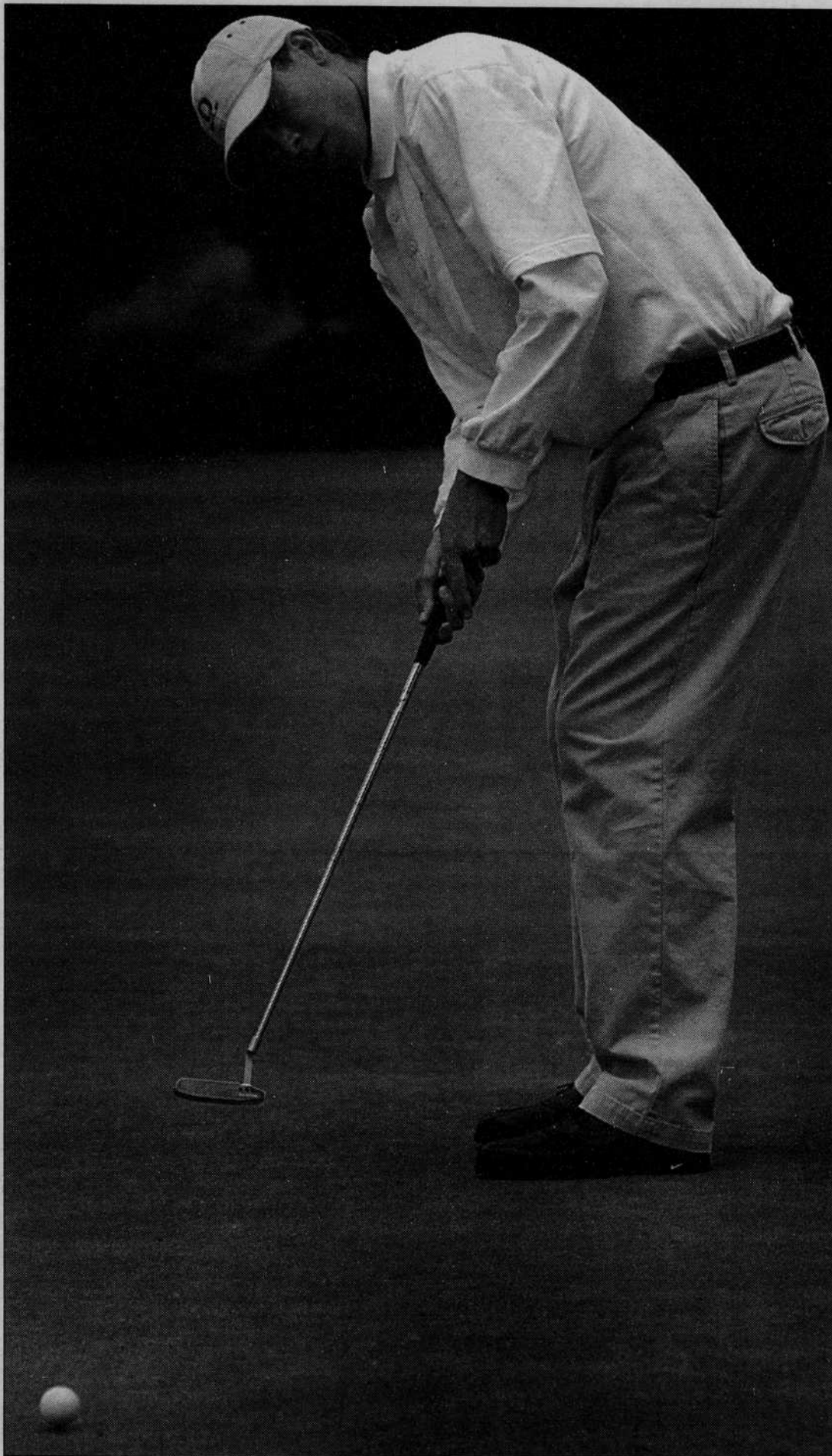


SPORTS

Best bet
Champion's League Final:
AC Milan vs. Juventus
11:30 a.m., ESPN2

Wednesday, May 28, 2003



Danielle Hickey Emerald

Chris Carnahan holds the second-best score on the team after one round at the NCAA Championships in Oklahoma. The Oregon senior said he's excited about this year's finale, which runs through Friday at Oklahoma State's home course.

Ironman Carnahan

Senior Chris Carnahan reflects on his five years as a Duck as the team competes in the NCAA Championships

Golf

Scott Archer
Freelance Sports Reporter

Tuesday, Chris Carnahan played in the biggest golf tournament he has ever been in, "the granddaddy of them all," the NCAA Championships. And Carnahan has been in a lot of tournaments.

"Chris and I were counting the other day, and we think Chris has been in more tournaments than any other Oregon golfer, ever," said senior Oregon co-captain John Ellis, who shares the captain duties with Carnahan. "It's something like 74 straight. That says a lot about him and his golf game. It's a pretty nice accomplishment."

Carnahan acts like he's seen it all before. He hasn't. He didn't know the enormity of the tournament, which runs through Friday, until he took his first swing at the 7,301-yard, par-72 Karsten Creek Golf Course in Stillwater, Okla.

Carnahan now sits on the doorstep of one of his biggest dreams since he first began playing golf at the age of six. Before heading to Oklahoma, he reflected on what it meant to be heading into his last tournament ever as a Duck — and his biggest tournament yet.

"All the hard work for four years, it all paid off in the end," Carnahan said. "It's pretty much a dream come true for Ellis and myself. We wake up everyday thinking about Stillwater."

One of Oregon's most experienced

players isn't having the best individual season he has ever had as a Duck; that was last year. This year is different. For the first time in four years, No. 26 seeded Oregon is back in the NCAA Championships, competing against the 29 best teams in the nation, and Carnahan wouldn't have it any other way.

"I shot better numbers last year," Carnahan said. "I had way more success last year, but I knew what it took to get to those scores this year. I knew if I took a lot of risks, it would kill our team."

But this season is bigger than Carnahan or any individual success he could have.

"Team comes first," Carnahan said. "A team represents your school, your school represents your community, your community represents your state, then you go back and individually you represent that team. This is a way better year for the team, and that's all that matters, really. Ask anybody if they'd rather go to nationals as an individual or as a team. They will say 'team.'"

Carnahan is a popular man these days. After all, it was his final round 2-under par 70 that helped launch his team into the NCAA Championships. Reporters from all over the state have crawled out of the woodwork to get a piece of Oregon's most tenured golfer.

But Carnahan doesn't bask in the light. He'd rather share it with his teammates, something he is used to doing with the four guys he will be competing with this week.

"(Mike) Sica's hole-in-one was unreal," Carnahan said, referring to his teammate's ace at last week's NCAA Regionals. "I don't know how the hell he made it. He didn't hit it good, 'cause the pin was tucked in the back and the green was sloped. It was unreal."

Unreal as it may be, it was with one
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Ducks trip on No. 7, sit in last at NCAAs

Three Oregon golfers triple-bogey one hole, and Oregon can't recover on the first day of the NCAA Championships

Golf

Scott Archer
Freelance Sports Reporter

On the biggest stage this year's version of the Oregon men's golf team has ever played, things couldn't have been any less indicative of how the season has progressed.

Coming off a top-10 finish two weeks

ago in the NCAA Regional, which catapulted the Ducks into the NCAA Championships in Stillwater, Okla., this week, Oregon looked like a team ready to surprise a lot of people. And the team did exactly that on Tuesday in the opening round of the 2003 NCAA Golf Championships — just not in a way people would have imagined. Oregon finished the day tied for last place in the 30-team field.

The 7,301-yard, par-72 Karsten Creek Golf Course wreaked havoc on even the most celebrated Duck players Tuesday as senior John Ellis shot probably his worst round of golf in his Oregon career. Ellis had 10 holes of bogeys or

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I'll take the NBA Jam in the Age of Enlightenment, please

Lots has changed since the wild, wacky, wonderful 1980s.

Vanilla Ice is now a motocross star. "Goonies" favorite Corey Feldman has been relegated to lame reality television shows on the WB. Michael Jackson's nose is now actually caving in on itself.

But no change has been more dramatic than the change in sports video games — and this is a change for the better.

Where once we had two plays to choose from,

Peter Hockaday
Two minutes for crosschecking

gamers now have playbooks to make Mike Holmgren cringe. Where once we watched colored dots move across the screen, graphics are now realistic enough to make roommates stop and say, "I didn't know there was a game today..."

And for this, those of us who enjoy making our athletes dance to our touch are higher than a helium balloon.

The evolution of the sports video game is sort of like the evolution of time. The Dark Ages of the Nintendo gave us "Tecmo Bowl," "Blades of Steel" and "Baseball Stars." These games have kitsch value, for sure. But seriously, how excited can you get when it's third-and-eight, and you have two run plays and a pass play to choose from?

Then there was the mid-'90s Renaissance, which gave us classics like "NBA Jam," "NHL 95"

and the start of the "Madden" franchise. These were sports. Now you could lob a deep bomb from Young to Rice, throw it down with Clyde Drexler or make Wayne Gretzky's head bleed.

That last one, in reference to "NHL 95," spawned the most classic movie line ever about a video game. Of course, it's from one of the most quotable movies out there, "Swingers."

Trent: "You know what, Mikey? You can make their heads bleed on this one."

Mikey: "Make somebody's head bleed."

Sue (wearing Gretzky jersey): "No, we're in the playoffs."

Trent: "I'm gonna make Wayne Gretzky's head bleed for Superfan No. 99 over here. (Meanwhile, Sue gets up to pay the Pink Dot

guy while Trent keeps playing and checks Gretzky.) Check it out Mikey, his head's bleeding! Little Wayne's legs are shaking!"

Now, the evolution has almost reached its peak. With Xbox and Playstation 2, we get Autzen Stadium duplicated down to the concession stands in "NCAA Football," Tiger Woods sniping after a bad shot in his own game franchise and Beckham's kicks actually bending in "FIFA 2003." (For the record, "FIFA 2003" is my favorite sports video game of all time because it's the only one I'm good at. And because last month, I sent a Beckham free kick into the upper-right corner of the goal from 35 yards. Not that I'm bragging.)

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