

Ducks start slow, make late run before darkness

The Ducks finish in 12th place after the first round while shooting an interrupted 8-under second round

By Brian Smith
Freelance Reporter

The Oregon men's golf team opened its spring season on Monday in pretty much the same position it finished in the fall.

Looking to improve on their 14th-place finish last year, the

Ducks started slow, posting a first-round team score of 291 and finishing in 12th at the PING-Arizona Intercollegiate at the par-71, 6,793-yard Arizona National Country Club in Tucson, Ariz.

DUCK GOLF

Play was suspended on Monday after a 90-minute frost delay in the morning. When the second round was halted, the Ducks were at 8-under and making an afternoon run.

"We were really making a move in the afternoon before they stopped play and if we just stay where we are, we'll have a pretty good round," Oregon coach Steve Nosler said.

The low individual total for Oregon was posted by freshman Dustin Pewardchuk, who carded a first-round score of even par-71, finishing in a tie for 28th. Sophomore Justin St. Clair fired a 1-over 72 to finish tied for 40th. Freshman Matt Ma had a 2-over 73, good for a tie for 45th, while sophomore Gregg LaVoie and senior Mike Sica struggled to shoot a 4-over

75, and finished tied for 61st.

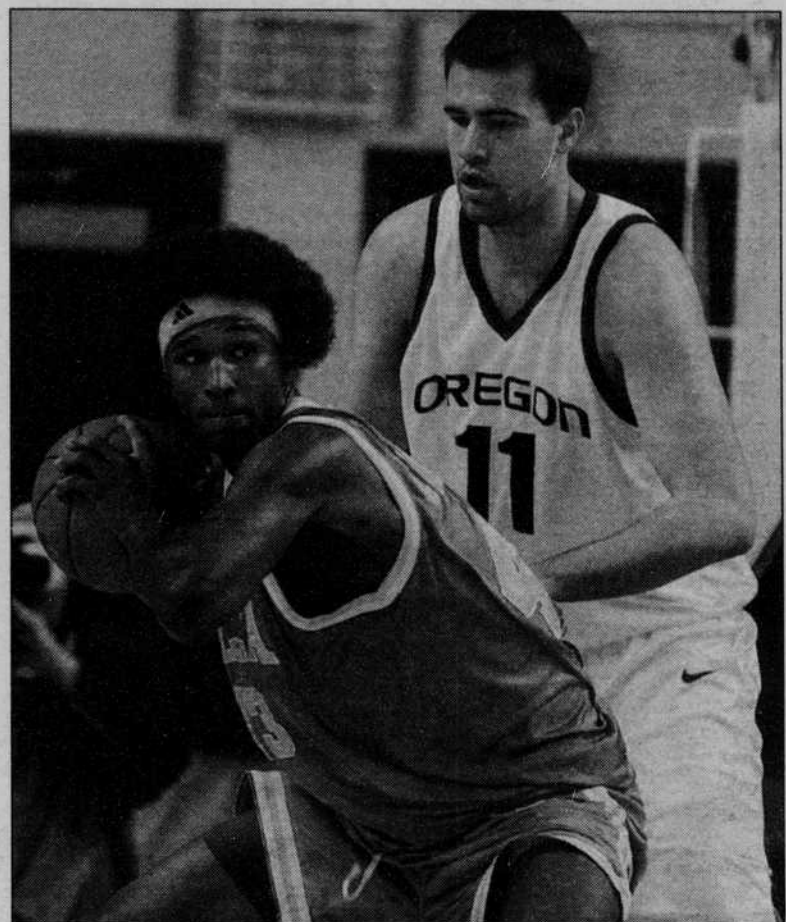
The Ducks finished 24 strokes behind the leaders, tournament-defending champions and host Arizona. The Wildcats posted a blistering team score of 17-under 267. Three out of the five ranked teams finished in the top four, with No. 25 New Mexico posting a second-place 275, No. 11 California shooting a third-place 276, and No. 8 Arizona State and Southern California finishing fourth and fifth, with scores of 278 and 280, respectively.

Chris Nallen, an Arizona senior, continued his impressive individual

play, posting the low score of the day, an 8-under 63. The score marks his sixth consecutive competitive round in the 60s, dating back to Oct. 13, 2003. In that span, Nallen is averaging 64.83 strokes per round.

The Ducks will look to finish strong on Tuesday, providing a much-needed boost to the beginning of the spring season. The second round is scheduled to resume at 8 a.m., with the third round immediately following completion.

Brian Smith is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.



Adam Amato Senior Photographer

Senior forward T.J. Cummings and the Bruins have struggled with five straight losses.

STREAK

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Washington State.

If Washington State head coach Dick Bennett had not come down with the flu and stayed home, the outcome could have been different.

If the Cougars could have managed more than just one free throw on three attempts, the outcome could have been different.

But in the end, the Cougars are on the sour end of the longest losing streak between two Pac-10 teams. Washington State has not beat Arizona since 1986.

Arizona's 61-point total was its lowest total of the season. The Wildcats entered Saturday's game with the nation's leading offense, averaging 88 points per game.

"It's obvious that Dick (Bennett) and Tony (Bennett) have sold them on the value of good defense," Arizona head coach Lute Olson said.

Arizona (14-4 overall, 6-3 Pac-10) has a young starting lineup with no seniors, and four of the players scored in double figures on Saturday. Junior Channing Frye led the way with 17 points with Mustafa Shakur and Salim Stoudamire

accounting for 11 each.

Washington's Robinson receives weekly honor

Washington guard Nate Robinson was named the Pacific-10 Conference Men's Basketball Player of the Week on Monday for the week of Jan. 26-Feb. 1.

Robinson averaged 19.5 points, 4.5 rebounds, four assists and 3.5 steals in a home sweep of the Arizona schools. When the Huskies upset then-No. 9 ranked Arizona, he scored a career-high 31 points.

This is the first honor for Robinson, and he is the first Husky to win the award since Curtis Allen won it on December 3, 2001.

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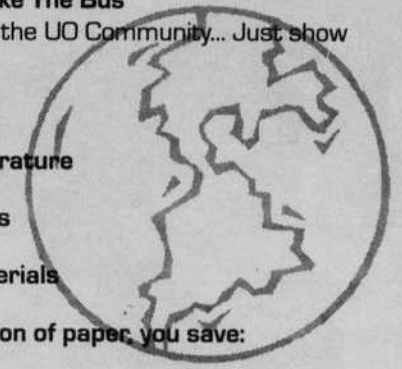
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