

Oregon golfers start slow in Hawaii tournament

The Ducks are led by Gregg LaVoie, who finished 32nd in the first round in Waikoloa

By Brian Smith
Freelance Reporter

The Oregon men's golf team finished the first round of the TaylorMade-Waikoloa Intercollegiate one spot higher than last year's showing.

DUCK GOLF

The Ducks, who sent two freshmen and three

sophomores to Hawaii, finished with a team score of 6-over 294, good for a tie for 13th with the University of Rhode Island on the 7,074-yard, par-72 Waikoloa Kings Golf Course in Waikoloa, Hawaii. The Ducks are 22 strokes back of the leader, fifth-ranked Georgia Tech.

The young squad continued to show the inconsistency and inexperience that has hampered it all year. Looking to turn a corner after shooting a season-best 6-under second round of the PING-Arizona Intercollegiate, the Ducks have posted rounds of 15-over and 6-over, respectively.

Sophomore Gregg LaVoie was the only Duck to finish in the top 40, posting an even par 72, finishing in 32nd. Fellow sophomores Justin St. Clair and Kyle Johnson finished a shot behind LaVoie, tied for 41st with first-round 73s. Freshman and Hawaii native Matt Ma carded a 77 in his opening round and finished in 85th. Freshman Dustin Pewarchuk, playing the best golf so far in the spring season with his first top-twenty of his career at the PING-Arizona, struggled his first nine holes, shooting a 41. Pewarchuk righted the ship and finished the back nine with a 35, posting a first round score of 76, good for 76th.

Georgia Tech, winner of three of the past six TaylorMade-Waikoloa tournaments, continued its dominant play in Hawaii, finishing with an impressive 16-under team score of 272. Georgia Tech was ten shots clear of the second place finisher, defending champs and fourth-ranked UCLA. Washington finished an impressive round tied for 3rd with No. 9 Arizona State at 283. UC Davis and Stanford finished tied for fifth at 284. The second tier of finishers includes Texas Christian University with a 285; USC at 286; host school Hawaii-Hilo at 289; and Arkansas, Nagoya Commerce (Japan) and Tulsa in a tie for 10th at 293.

Individually, four of the Georgia Tech golfers posted a score of 70 or better during the first round of play, led by their own Nicholas Thompson, who shot an 8-under 64 to take a four-shot lead over second-place finishers Brock MacKenzie of Washington and UCLA's John Poucher, who both shot 4-under 68. Stanford's Zach Miller and Kevin Blue tied with four other golfers for 4th, at 3-under.

Oregon returns for the second round of 18 holes Thursday morning. Tee times starts at 6:45 a.m.

Brian Smith is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

Ducks host Sun Devils to start off weekend contests

The Oregon women face off against Arizona and Arizona State to start off the Pacific-10 Conference season

By Alex Tam
Freelance Reporter

The undefeated Oregon women look to ride the momentum of their six-game winning streak into the beginning of Pacific-10 Conference play.

The Ducks (6-0 overall) will host two national powerhouses ranked in the top 35, starting today with No. 18

Arizona State at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Tennis Center. Oregon will later compete against 34th-ranked Arizona at noon on Saturday.

The Ducks have so far dominated their opponents in both the doubles and singles play during the dual meet season. Five Ducks are currently holding perfect dual match singles records with senior Davina Mendiburu leading the way at 6-0. As a team, Oregon has lost only six matches this spring season in compiling a 32-4 singles record and a 16-2 record in doubles.

The women are starting to feel confident that they can make a big impact in a conference that has six teams in the top 20, including top-ranked Stanford.

"I think this program has come to the point where if we play well, we can beat every match we play," Oregon head coach Nils Schyllander said.

However, this weekend will prove to be the toughest challenge at this point in the year.

Arizona State (2-0 overall), ranked as high as sixth in the country last year, is a very young team composed of six freshmen and is led by junior Joslynn Burkett, who is ranked 50th in the nation. The Sun Devils' freshmen have a great deal of international experience, though, and have already proven themselves in their first year at the collegiate level.

Sun Devils head coach Sheila McInerney said her newcomers are not feeling any pressure to live up to

their expectations and their ranking.

"I'm not sure (our freshmen) know what to expect so this will be a great test for us," McInerney said. "We have a lot of respect for Oregon and are looking forward to the match. We know the Ducks will come out very aggressively and we will have to match their intensity."

Schyllander said he is impressed by Arizona State's first-year players.

"They are very accomplished players that I don't think they've fallen off from where they were last year," he said.

Arizona (2-1 overall) comes to Eugene after dropping seven places in the rankings from No. 27 to No. 34. As opposed to Arizona State, the Wildcats boast a lineup of experienced

third-year and fourth-year players, including juniors Dianne Hollands and Maja Mlakar, who are both ranked in the top 30 in the nation.

Revenge will be on the minds of the Wildcats after the Ducks pulled off a 4-3 upset victory last year when Oregon senior Courtney Nagle won her singles match that decided the dual contest tiebreaker. It turned out to be the first win ever in Tucson for the Oregon women's tennis program.

"Arizona is a very experienced group that knows what it takes to win matches," Schyllander said. "We upset Arizona last year so I know they're going to be gunning for us."

Alex Tam is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

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to you and be able to watch them."

Kraayeveld knows how nerve-racking it can be to play as a freshman. In her first season, she played in all but five of Oregon's games, albeit in a limited role.

"I just tried to encourage her and be a positive influence on her," Kraayeveld said. "She's played a lot coming in as a freshman and that can be hard sometimes."

Shettters is just making her way right now. Her mom Teri Shettters still lives in Portland and attends all of Oregon's home games. Her older sister, Jenny Shettters, is in touch regularly by phone.

"Between her and my mom, they probably hear all of my problems," Jessica Shettters said. "She's just somebody that I can vent to about things that are bothering me and stuff like that, because she's been through it."

Jenny Shettters is in her fourth year playing on the women's basketball team at New Mexico. Although the sisters grew up together on the softball field, they rarely played basketball together because of their age difference.

Now, Jenny Shettters is regularly involved in her sister's basketball days.

"It's kind of hard because we're so far away," Jenny Shettters said. "I tried to help her know what she was getting into. She tells me what's going on and how her team is doing. We talk a lot."

Jessica Shettters' first season hasn't been all hard work and no fun. Shettters started her first collegiate game in Oregon's annual Papé Jam in December, playing in front of her hometown crowd at the Rose Garden. Overall, she has started in 11 games.

"I don't think I've ever been that nervous in my entire life," Shettters said of her first start. "I can't even describe it, I was so nervous. My hands were sweating so bad I thought I wasn't going to be able to catch the ball. The minute the jump ball went up, the nerves just went away, but sitting in the locker room, listening to Bev's pre-game speech, that was intense."

Besides starting as a freshman, other unexpected things have happened during Shettters' time in Eugene. Former opponent Cicely Oaks, who played for PIL rival Grant High School, is now a teammate and a friend.

Oaks and Shettters played against each other dating back to Amateur

Athletic Union teams in middle school. The first and only time they took the court as teammates before wearing University of Oregon jerseys was in Oregon jerseys for the annual Oregon-Washington all-star game.

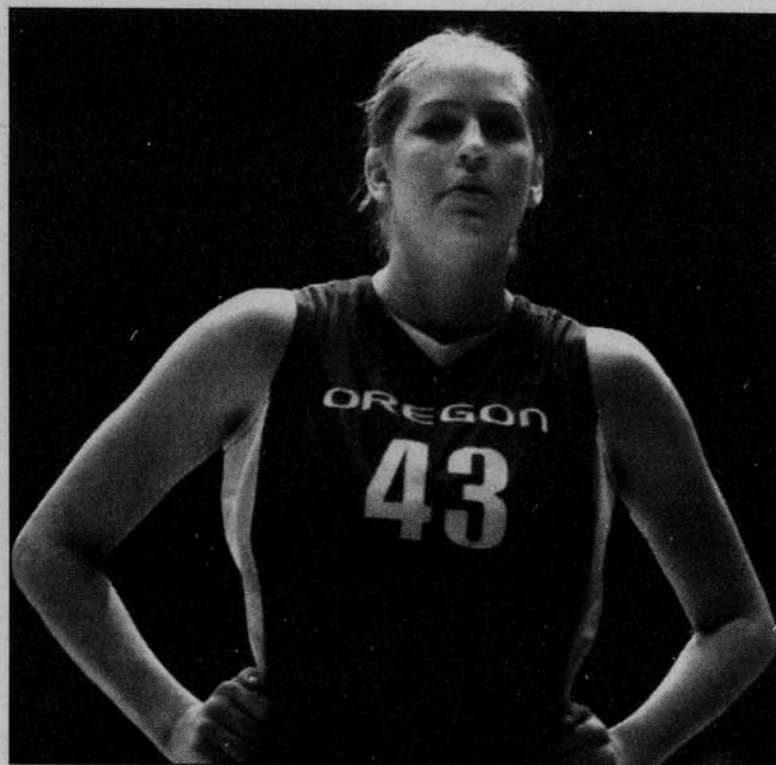
"In high school, her attitude was a little sketchy," Oaks said. "We knew we could kind of piss her off and get her out of her game. Strategy was just to piss her off basically."

"Now, she's matured a lot. I think she sees that she can be a good player, so she's putting the effort into sucking stuff up and just becoming better all around. I think college had a lot to do with it. She sees the bigger picture so she's changing her ways a little bit."

Shettters' older sister agreed that the Oregon freshman has matured since her high school days not so long ago. Jessica Shettters realizes it herself.

"It's been definitely a learning experience," Shettters said. "There's been some down moments and definitely some up moments. It's all about keeping your head up."

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Tim Kupsick Freelance Photographer

Portland native Jessica Shettters said she thinks going through freshman year of college in a different state would have been a difficult adjustment to make.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Hawks stay undefeated

PHILADELPHIA — Jameer Nelson hears the whispers about how third-ranked St. Joseph's isn't really this good. He watches some of the talking heads on television express their doubts about the Hawks, listens to them say they will be exposed sooner or later by a team with a formidable frontcourt.

Always quick with a smile or a humorous quip, the all-American guard isn't one to carry a chip on his shoulder. But when asked whether Wednesday night's 81-67 Atlantic Ten victory over defending conference champion Dayton was a reply to the skeptics, Nelson, sitting sweat-soaked at his locker with a bag of ice wrapped around his left knee, offered a response to the critics.

"People can say what they want," he said. "The bottom line is we're winning."

I'm really getting tired of people saying we're pretenders and all that stuff. I'm not the kind of person who's going to come out and be cocky. But at the same time, we're out there working hard like everyone else. So why would anyone want to take something away from us?"

With a roaring, standing-room-only crowd inside Alumni Memorial Fieldhouse exhorting them, the Hawks (21-0 overall, 10-0 conference) defeated the tall, stubborn and veteran Flyers (19-4, 9-1) as the magnificent backcourt tandem of Nelson and Delonte West delivered one blow after another at crunch time.

West led St. Joe's with 24 points on 9-for-16 shooting, and handed out five assists. After missing his first five shots, the 5-foot-11 Nelson finished with 16 points, seven assists and six rebounds. Each had only two turnovers.

— Ray Parrillo
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Duke wins 18th straight

DURHAM, N.C. — Luol Deng shouted at his teammates after he scored on the block and was fouled.

"Let's go, man," he said, before making the free throw to complete the three-point play Wednesday night at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

After missing 16 minutes of the first half with two fouls and a sore tailbone, Deng was ready to make an impact. He scored all 11 of his points over 5 minutes, 57 seconds of the second half and top-ranked Duke pulled away for a 93-75 victory against Virginia.

"The game was getting close, and I really just went out there to lift everyone up," Deng said.

Virginia trailed by five points when Deng began hitting shots. After the three-point play, Deng made a 15-foot baseline jumper, two free throws

and a rebound basket before concluding his scoring flurry with an alley-oop dunk on a pass from Chris Duhon with 8:52 remaining.

Thirty-four seconds later, Duhon passed to Shelden Williams for a two-handed dunk on the fast break. Duke was comfortably in command at 74-59 after leading 57-54 with 13 minutes to play.

"As soon as Looney got into the game, he brought energy to the whole place, not just our team, because we hadn't seen him in a long time," said Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski.

Guard J.J. Redick scored 25 to lead Duke (21-1, 10-0 ACC) in its 18th victory in a row and its 39th straight home win. Virginia (12-9, 2-8) lost its fifth straight.

Deng was injured while committing a charge under the basket 3:23

into the game. Duke center Williams also suffered a tailbone injury in the second half.

With two of their top frontcourt players gimpy, the Blue Devils weren't the same, especially on defense. Virginia center Elton Brown played strong in the post and scored 24, two short of his season high.

Virginia shot 47.4 percent from the field, the highest mark allowed by Duke in 18 games since its lone loss of the season, against Purdue on Nov. 29.

"Winston Churchill said, 'Do the best you can, where you are, with what you've got.' I'm at a great school and you've got to do the best you can. I thought tonight we did the best we could," said Virginia coach Pete Gillen.

— Ken Tysiac
Knight Ridder Newspapers