

# Oregon takes 16th before darkness halts play

Sophomore Justin St. Clair leads the Ducks with a tie for 37th in California

By Brian Smith  
Freelance Reporter

The Oregon men's golf team has been struggling to get out of the dark during the early part of the 2004 spring season.

Darkness again suspended the sec-

ond round of a tournament for the Ducks. This time it was at the 27th annual Cleveland Golf Collegiate Invitational on the 6,815-yard, par-71 North Ranch Country Club course in Westlake Village, Calif. When play was halted, the Ducks were at a 12-over 296, good for 16th place in a loaded field that included eight of the top-25 teams in this

## DUCK GOLF

week's Golfweek rankings.

Individually, three out of the five Oregon players completed two rounds on Friday. Sophomore Justin St. Clair led the Ducks with a score of 4-over 147, good for a tie for 37th. Fellow sophomore Gregg LaVoie followed with a 5-over 148.

The other Duck to complete his first two rounds was senior Jimmy White, who finished with a 10-over 154, tied for 70th. Freshman Matt Ma completed the first round with a 79, and senior

Mike Sica fired an opening round 81.

Only three of the 17 teams competing in the tournament completed two rounds of play. Host school and No. 24 USC led all teams with a single-round score of 2-under 283. Eleventh-ranked Texas trailed close behind, while No. 20 BYU finished in 3rd.

TCU, fourth, and Alabama round out the top five. Third-ranked UCLA is the surprise in the second tier of teams that includes California, Tennessee, Oregon State and Arizona State. The

Bruins, who are looking for their 11th victory since last February, currently sit ninth with 293.

The tournament's individual leader is Texas sophomore Matthew Rosenfeld. Rosenfeld fired rounds of 67 and 68 to finish with a 7-under 135. The remainder of the second round starts Tuesday at 7:30 a.m., followed immediately by a shotgun start for the third round.

Brian Smith is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

## HAGER

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scoring all of his 16 points.

Curiously, after going 5 for 5 from the field — four shots of which were three-pointers — in the second half, he took just two shots in the overtime session.

Brooks may be recognized most for failing to get off a shot as regulation came to close against California. So Jackson was wide open. Crosswhite may have had a better look at the basket than Brooks.

Chalk it up to a rookie mistake. Oh well.

Against the Golden Bears, Brooks was the difference. Against the Cardinal, nothing he could have done would have made a difference.

But the season as a whole would have been different with the Seattle native in the lineup.

Do the Ducks lose to Oregon State on Jan. 10? Do they lose earlier this season to Stanford at McArthur Court after allowing the Cardinal to come back from 19 down?

Better yet, do the Ducks stand more

of a chance of making the NCAA Tournament?

My guess: No, no and no.

Oregon probably doesn't lose those two games. The presence of a true point guard would have kept the Ducks from turning the ball over as much, which has been of central concern all season.

The Ducks probably don't make the NCAA Tournament with him healthy the whole season, although it doesn't seem as do or die as it does now.

The Stanford cheering section made sure to welcome the Ducks with chants

of "NIT, NIT, NIT," as Oregon took the Maples Pavilion floor Saturday.

With Brooks, those chants ring true. Without him for most of the season, as the Ducks have found out, those students are probably giving Oregon the benefit of the doubt.

Oregon just might be on the bubble for the NIT.

And that's if the Ducks can get to the Pacific-10 Conference Tournament two weeks from now.

With Brooks, the Ducks are in the driver's seat this season. Without him, they've instead been pushed,

pulled and bullied around from Pac-10 opponents, that, according to most rankings around the nation, are not up to snuff.

So what does that make the Ducks?

This week, lucky. If anything, they should be thankful he came back in time for the games against Southern California and UCLA this week.

Imagine otherwise.

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## WINS

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changed words afterward.

When the Ducks met in the middle of the "O" on McArthur Court's floor for their regular postgame huddle, California was in its way. It appeared that the Golden Bears pushed their way into the middle of the "O," forcing the Ducks off to the side to wait for California to finish before Oregon could celebrate.

"We always go to the middle of the court at McArthur Court," point guard Corrie Mizusawa said. "We never do

that at away games."

Both head coaches said it was an inconsequential event that didn't stem from hard feelings.

"I think it's just a little thing that happens at the end of the games when you're at your home court and the teams are trying to do their closure," Smith said. "I don't think our players took anything from it."

California and Oregon parted ways at the middle of the court, knowing they would meet again Friday in the second game of the Pac-10 tournament.

"Both teams have come full circle," California head coach Caren Horstmeyer said Saturday.

The Ducks and Golden Bears opened and closed the Pac-10 regular season against each other, playing in Berkeley, Calif., on Dec. 27 and then in Eugene on Saturday.

### Braceless

Mizusawa, who has a partially torn lateral meniscus in her left knee, spent two weeks playing with a brace on her knee. She chose not to wear the brace in Thursday's game against Stanford and again Saturday against California.

"She felt that she was OK (without the brace) and that it maybe impeded her a little bit," Smith said after Thursday's game. "It tightens up and gets pretty sore

and stiff, but she's done a good job of icing it. (Assistant athletic trainer) Tom Embree's really done a great job of making sure she's practicing when she can and resting when she can."

The other Oregon guard with a torn lateral meniscus, sophomore Chelsea Wagner, did not play in either of the Ducks' final home games of the season.

"There are probably only so many plays left in those knees and only so many games," Smith said. "It's really stiffened up on her and has become quite painful. We chose to rest her tonight to see if she'd be ready for Saturday and if not quite ready then

we'll rest her again and see if she can play with us at the Pac-10 tournament."

### Tournament deja vu

For the second consecutive year, the Ducks will face the team they closed the regular season playing in their first game of the Pac-10 Tournament. In 2003, Oregon closed the regular season with a 56-54 loss to UCLA. One week later, the Ducks lost to the Bruins, 71-58.

The Ducks' victorious outcome against California on Saturday will be tested Friday with an 8:15 p.m. tipoff.

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## WRESTLING

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wild card for the NCAA Tournament.

Sophomore Joey Bracamonte finished the tournament with a third-place finish in the 157-pound weight class.

Bracamonte lost his first match Sunday and went into the consolation bracket against Keith Kroeger of California Polytechnic. Bracamonte won that match and his next three matches to claim the third-place finish. Bracamonte, seeded fourth, should qualify for an NCAA bid.

Junior Luke Larwin won his first match Sunday but lost to No. 2 seed Christian Arellano of Cal State-Bakersfield.

Larwin entered the consolation bracket needing to win his next two matches to finish third. The junior did just that, beating No. 6 Russell Brunson of Boise State to lay claim to the third-place finish and most likely an NCAA berth.

Junior Chet McBee finished the tournament in fifth place, ending his shot at an NCAA berth.

McBee wrestled against Jon Carlisle of Boise State, earning a win and a

match against No. 4 Leonel Sanchez in the 174-pound division. Sanchez, who is from Cal State-Fullerton, outdueled McBee. From there on, McBee faced off against Frank Richmond of UC-Davis, where McBee earned the victory.

Senior Jake Leair didn't fare as well.

Leair needed four wins after his first round loss to finish the tournament in third place. Instead, the senior won his first consolation match but lost in the next round, ending his season and career as a Duck.

Little-used Chris Dearman entered the tournament with limited experience

on the year. It showed in his first match. However, Dearman won his first consolation match, along with his second. Dearman was only one win away from a match for the third place finish, but lost to Arturo Basulto of Cal Poly.

In the final match to determine a fifth-place finish, Dearman lost to Eric Parker of Cal State-Bakersfield.

For those who qualified for the NCAA Tournament, practices will resume with the tournament scheduled for March 18-20.

Scott Archer is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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## ARIZONA

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total in Pac-10 play since posting a 10-8 record in 1999.

Even more impressive, the

Huskies have not held down the second place conference position this late in the season since the 1985-86 season.

Washington faces Cal on Thursday and No. 1 Stanford on Saturday.

The Huskies are 1-26 all-time against No. 1 teams, beating UCLA, 69-68, in 1979.

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