

Perfect break pushes women while men seek consistency

Sica fires a career-low round to help Oregon's men take second place in California

By Brian Smith
Freelance Reporter

The Oregon women's golf team made it a perfect four for four during spring break.

The Ducks took home the team title at the Santa Clara Colby Invitational, played at the 5,801-yard, par-71 Rancho Canada East Course in Carmel, Calif., for the fourth time in as many tries —

DUCK GOLF

previously winning in 1997, 1999, and 2000.

The final round of the tournament saw most of the fireworks. After finishing the first round tied for 10th, helping the Ducks to the opening day lead, sophomore Michelle Timpani stole the show. She and UC Riverside's Lindsay Snowden fired second-round 71s, giving them both a tournament score of 146. Timpani and Snowden faced off in a sudden-death playoff, ending with Timpani capturing her first individual title of her collegiate career on the sixth extra hole of the day.

"(Michelle) played very confidently and relaxed," Oregon head coach

Shannon Rouillard said. "She maintained her composure the entire way. It was a thrill to be a coach in that situation and exciting to watch Michelle come through with the win under the circumstances."

Coming through, or more aptly, breaking out, is what Timpani has been doing. Her sudden surge, starting with a tie for ninth at the Duck Invitational and her win at the Colby, has given her the only top-10 finishes of her career. Her previous bests included a couple of 42nd-place finishes at the 2003 Lady Vandal Invitational and the 2002 OSU/Shanico Invitational.

Junior Johnna Nealy improved on her career-best seventh-place finish at the 2004 Duck Invitational by carding a final-round 75 to give her a 148 total, good for a tie for fourth. Sophomore Therese Wenslow faded in the final round after shooting a 79, falling into a tie for 11th. Freshman Kimberly McCready finished in a tie for 15th with a 75-77-152. Sophomore Erin Andrews finished with a 81-78, earning a tie for 43rd. Junior Jess Carlyon finished tied for 53rd, while seniors Katie Cunningham and Jamie Seefried finished with a 165 and 177, respectively.

The Ducks will look to capture their third team title of the year, a feat last accomplished in 1996, when they travel to PING/ASU Invitational, held at the Karsten Golf Course in Tempe, Ariz.,

from April 2 through 4.

Consistency leads men to second

Home seems to be the best medicine for the Oregon men's golf team.

Plagued by inconsistency throughout the year, the Ducks used home-course knowledge to shoot three rounds of solid golf to finish second at the 2004 Oregon Duck Invitational, held at the par-72 Shadow Hills Country Club in Junction City on March 22 and 23.

The Ducks finished with a team total of 867, six strokes behind champion San Diego State.

Senior Mike Sica finished with a career-best tie for fourth, at 1-under 215, capped by a second-round 66, a career-low. Freshman Dustin Pewarchuk also finished in the top 10, with a ninth-place 218, for his best finish as a Duck. Sophomore Justin St. Clair tied for 11th at 219, while sophomore Kyle Johnson led the Oregon second team, finishing in 13th with a 221.

Individual honors went to San Diego State's Jeff Hansen, who finished with a 5-under 211.

The Ducks will compete next in the ASU Thunderbird Invitational April 9-10, in Tempe, Ariz.

Brian Smith is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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In the 1,000th game at Mac Court, Oregon fed off that energy and ran away to South Bend, Ind., where the Ducks promptly defeated Notre Dame.

Against the Patriots, the scoreboard was again swaying and press row was rocking just as hard.

As the season wound down, Jackson quipped that it would be tough to sit in the third and fourth levels of McArthur Court. No, not because the view is less than desirable, but because of the fear of what would happen if the place started moving too much.

A collapse, maybe?

Somehow, it didn't happen.

"It got loud," Oregon guard Andre Joseph said after the Ducks defeated George Mason. "It wasn't as loud as last game. Last game was loud. It was up there, though."

For the record, the Ducks drew 7,461 fans against Colorado. They sold out McArthur Court against the Patriots.

What may be most impressive, however, is the downright ability of those in attendance to lend support to the Ducks with a sense of maturity.

In a year where collegiate crowds have come under increasing fire for their lack of manners and respectability when it comes to opposing teams, Mac Court fans, namely the Pit Crew, have become that issue's symbol.

More than once they've been known to curse at and offer derogatory suggestions to opposing players. Worse, those comments often make the airwaves.

But when ESPN2 came to televise the games against the Buffaloes and Patriots, something seemed to change within the Pit Crew — for the better.

Colorado's David Harrison said he found out his mom was "promiscuous" during the Buffaloes' loss. Aside from that, nothing but positive comments came from both teams.

"I love your arena, it's a great environment and Oregon played like that," George Mason head coach Jim Larranga said.

"It was a great crowd, they served as

a sixth man on the court," Colorado head coach Ricardo Patton said the week before. "It is a tough place to play and it is a great college atmosphere."

The game against George Mason came just days before Maryland acknowledged it has the right to police fans who become unruly or wear clothing that has "vulgar messages."

Terrapins' games against Duke and North Carolina have gotten out of hand this past season, bringing this new-found report to light. Some of these games, as it has been reported on ESPN and various newspapers, could have paralleled what opposing teams have had to suffer through this season.

So think about next season. Think about what happened at Maryland. Remember what it was like when the Ducks played the Buffaloes and Patriots.

Remember all of that and keep the act clean.

Contact the sports editor at hankhager@dailyemerald.com. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

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MARCH/APRIL 2004

3/31

Full Board Meeting

4/7

House Committee & Budget Committee

4/14

Full Board Meeting

4/21


House Committee & Budget Committee

4/28

Full Board Meeting

All meetings are at 4:00 pm.

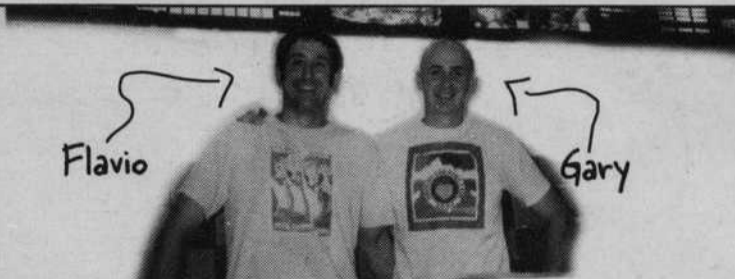
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