

Oregon's women take 13th at ASU

Therese Wenslow finished tied for 22nd in Tempe, Ariz., at the PING/ASU Invitational

By Brian Smith
Freelance Reporter

Mother Nature, it seems, has it in for the Oregon women's golf team this spring.

After being forced off the course by persistent thunderstorms, the Ducks were never able to climb the talented leaderboard. In the end, Oregon finished in 13th place at the 2004 PING/ASU Invitational in Tempe, Ariz., snapping their streak of six consecutive top 10 finishes.

The inclement weather forced the Ducks to wait and finish the first round of the tournament on Saturday.

DUCK GOLF

"The first delay we had was about an hour and a half long," Oregon coach Shannon Rouillard said. "The second (delay) was exactly an hour, and with all the lightning and rain, the officials finally decided to call it."

When play was halted on Friday, the Ducks, as a team, completed eight holes on the 6,230-yard, par-72 Karsten Golf Course. Two of the Ducks, sophomore Michelle Timpani and junior Jess Carlyon, were able to finish six holes in their opening rounds.

The suspension of play was a mixed

blessing, providing some players with the opportunity to start anew, but for others, the weather put a halt to solid opening rounds.

"I took it as a benefit," Tipmani said. "I got off to a rough start. I was six over when play was suspended, and ended up finishing the rest of the round at even par. But for the girls who were playing well, it was tough."

Improvement continued on Sunday. The Ducks, behind sophomore Therese Wenslow's final round 73 and Timpani's 75, finished with a team score of 299 to give them a tournament score of 915, four strokes ahead of Texas Christian, which finished tied with Oregon State. As much as the Ducks improved, however, so did the rest of the field. Tournament champion and second-ranked UCLA returned to form after its opening round 295 by shooting 284 and 282 in the second and third rounds, respectively. USC finished in second, sixteen strokes back, while sixth-ranked New Mexico fired a team total 881, to finish third.

Individually, Wenslow continued her strong spring play. Her tie for 22nd gives her three straight top 25 finishes, including a tie for second at the Duck Invitational and a tie for 11th at the Colby Invitational.

"I've been practicing a lot lately," Wenslow said. "It's nice, now that I am scoring better. I just need to make some more putts, however."

Brian Smith is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

season doubles victories at Oregon.

While the Ducks won the top two positions in singles with victories from Swinnen and Kost, Arizona swept the rest of the matches to pick up the win.

"Every one of their guys played to win the match and that was the difference," Russell said.

Women's team goes 1-1 on road trip

The Oregon women's tennis team's three-match winning streak was halted Friday by Tulsa, 5-2, but the Ducks rebounded for a 4-3 victory Saturday over San Diego State in California.

Eighth-ranked junior Daria Panova picked up her 28th victory of the season by shutting out Dita Hauerlandova, 6-0, 6-0. Sophomore Anna Leksinska clinched the match for the Ducks, defeating Patricia Graf, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

"The match was a great college battle and with a lot of players playing hurt, Anna (Leksinska) and the rest of the team stepped up to the challenge," Oregon head coach Nils Schyllander said.

The Ducks started their match strong against Tulsa on Friday, sweeping the doubles play and picking up an early 1-0 lead, but they could only win one more match the rest of the day with Leksinska's three-set victory over Timberly Greenly, 6-2, 2-6, 7-5.

"We had so much momentum after winning the doubles point," Schyllander said. "We just got outplayed in singles."

The women conclude their road trip today against San Diego.

Clayton Jones is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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VICTORY

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Thirty-eighth ranked junior Sven Swinnen led the Ducks with a three-set victory, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4, over Arizona State senior Chris Stewart.

The victory gave the Swiss-born Swinnen a tie for fourth on the all-time Oregon list with 55 match wins. Swinnen also moved up to a tie for ninth place on Oregon's all-time single-season victory list with 19.

"Sven knows what it takes to win matches, and when he sticks with his game plan he is hard to beat," Russell said.

The Ducks fell behind early when Arizona State captured the doubles point, but quickly tied it up when Oregon junior Manuel Kost made quick work of Arizona State junior Clinton Letcher, 6-2, 6-2. The victory marks the third in a row for Kost.

Sophomore Arron Spencer clinched the victory for Oregon when he defeated Arizona State's Ryan McBride in two straight tie-breakers for a 7-6, 7-6 win.

"There's obviously nerves, but I was in the same spot against Stanford and that gave me confidence that I could win a match in the tie-breaker," Spencer said.

The Ducks home-court advantage didn't work in their favor Friday, as they lost to Arizona 5-2.

The Wildcats came out swinging and defeated the Ducks, 2-1, in doubles to pick up the first point. Oregon's lone victory came from Swinnen and Spencer, marking their 14th victory of the year, moving them to 10th all-time for single-

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