

UO women hope to get back on track at Pac-10s

The Ducks look to reverse their struggles this week against some of the nation's elite

By Brian Smith
Freelance Reporter

It's now all about the postseason for the Oregon women's golf team.

With an NCAA regional bid already secured, Pacific-10 Conference pride is on the line this week as the Ducks travel to the par-72, 6,405-yard Saticoy Country Club in Somis, Calif., the site of this year's conference championships.

The Ducks will be hoping to improve on one of the best seasons in recent memory. Oregon captured multiple team titles for the first time since 1996, with wins at the Lady Vandal Invitational in the fall and a win at the Colby Invitational in March. Seven of the Ducks' eight tournaments resulted in top-10 finishes, which includes two top-five finishes at the Duck Invitational and the Edean Ihlanfeldt Invitational in Sammamish, Wash.

WOMEN'S GOLF

A formidable test awaits as six of the Pac-10 teams are ranked in the top 25 of this week's Golfweek rankings, including second-ranked UCLA, fourth-ranked and defending conference champ California and No. 9 Southern California. Arizona, ranked 11th nationally, joins No. 13 Washington and No. 23 Stanford in making the Pac-10 one of the nation's toughest conferences.

"This tournament is the best competition we will see all year until the regionals," Oregon head coach Shannon Rouillard said. "And even though we're not putting any pressure on trying to finish in a certain spot, you do always want to play well at your conference tournament. It's a feeling of pride and respect when you're out there competing

against the rest of the conference."

While there may not be pressure to finish in a certain spot, it could be said that some pressure has been added from the Ducks' finish to the season. The Ducks have struggled lately, losing some of the momentum they carried since the beginning of the fall season. Oregon finished with its worst result of the year, a 13th place showing at the PING/ASU Invitational at the beginning of April and then followed it up with a ninth-place at the Peg Barnard Intercollegiate Classic last week.

"We really have no expectations," Rouillard said. "We just want to go play the game like we're capable of playing it and refocus as we prepare for regionals."

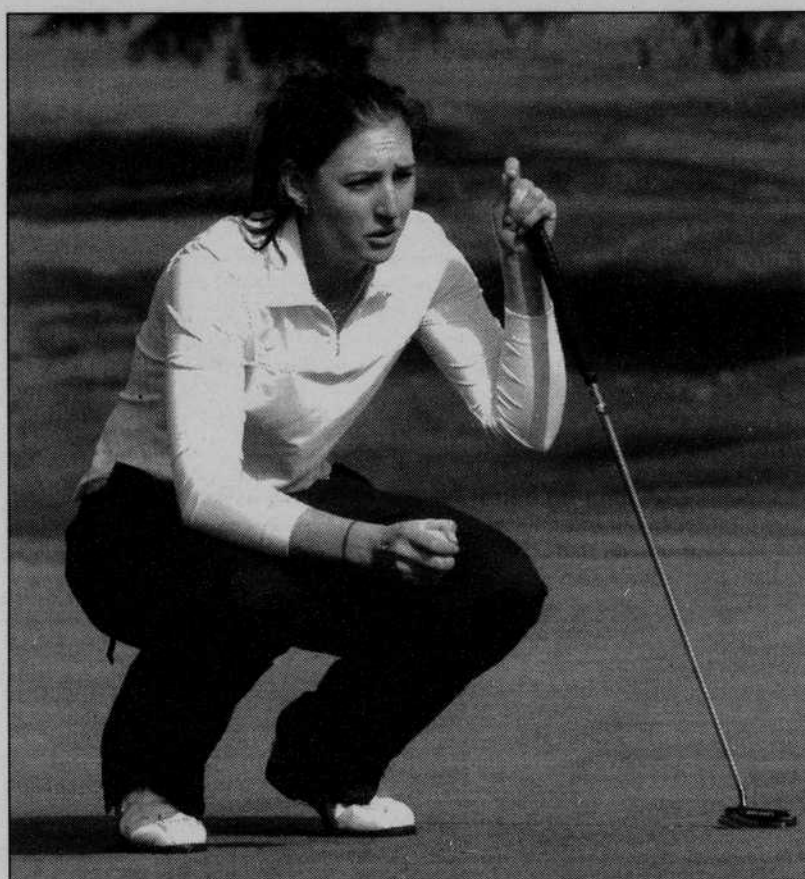
Unlike recent seasons, five of the six golfers Oregon will send to Somis have championship experience. Freshman Kimberly McCready will be the only golfer making her Pac-10 championship debut. Accompanying McCready will be sophomores Therese Wenslow, Erin Andrews, and Michelle Timpani.

Andrews leads the Ducks with a 76 stroke average for the spring, with Wenslow following close behind with a 76.4 average. Timpani is playing the best golf of the season with three top-25 finishes — including her first career individual title — in four events. Rounding out the Oregon contingent are juniors Johnna Nealy, who has had the most Pac-10 success of anyone on the team, and Jess Carlyon, who will be competing as an individual this week.

The Ducks will be looking to finish in the upper-half of the conference tournament for the first time since their fifth-place finish in 1997. Oregon finished last year's tournament in last place.

The teams tee off today at 8:30 a.m., and will play 18 holes each day of the three-day event.

Brian Smith is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.



Tim Bobosky Photographer

Junior Jess Carlyon and the Oregon women's golf team head south looking for their first top-five finish at the Pacific-10 Championships since 1997. Carlyon will compete as an individual.

ROAD

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The Ducks couldn't quite extend their weekend into three victories, as Nyhus gave up a walk-off home run to UCLA's Caitlin Benyi in the bottom of the tenth inning for a 3-2 loss Sunday.

"(The team) never gave up, and (they) battled inning after inning," Arendsen said in a release Sunday. "We had a great defensive game and were able to battle back in the fifth, but we

came up just short."

Oregon's two runs came on Goodell's second home run of the season in the top of the fifth inning. After Amy Harris started the game, Anissa Meashintubby relieved her. Nyhus relieved Meashintubby, eventually taking the loss. Each pitcher threw three innings.

Oregon returns to Howe Field on Friday for a three-game series against Arizona State and No. 1 Arizona.

Contact the senior sports reporter at mindirice@dailyemerald.com.

SPORTS BRIEF

Bills takes home top women's honor

Andrea Bills was named most valuable player of the Oregon women's basketball team at an annual awards banquet at the Eugene Hilton on Saturday.

After a season-ending knee injury to All-American candidate Cathrine Kraayeveld, Bills stepped up her game and led the Ducks in scoring (321 points), rebounding (225), field goal percentage (.472) and blocked shots (17). The junior center from Moreno Valley, Calif., was named honorable mention All-Pacific-10 Conference for

the first time in her career.

Freshman Eleanor Haring was voted the Ducks' most improved player, averaging 8.9 points and 4.3 rebounds per game. The newcomer from Mullaloo, Western Australia, became a constant in Oregon's starting lineup by season's end.

Junior Kedzie Gunderson took home defensive player of the year honors for her work against some of the Pac-10's top offensive players. In March, the Bellevue, Wash., native's defensive pressure on Nicole Powell was key in a win against No. 10 Stanford.

Kraayeveld was also presented with the Oregon Green & Gold Award for her contributions on and off the court.

— Jon Roetman

2004 ASUO Elections Voter's Guide Correction

Question:

Shall the ASUO Constitution be changed to strike the following language?

Section 6.15

The ASUO recommended incidental fee assessment for each of the following Major Programs:

- 1) ASUO Programs
 - 2) The Athletic Department, and
 - 3) The incidental fee portion of the EMU budget;
- ~~excluding replenishment for expenditures from the previous year's building reserves,~~ shall not exceed a 7% increase over the previous year's student incidental fee assessment, unless individually approved by an initiative or referendum shall under Section 14 of this Constitution. If placed on the ballot, the measure shall specify the exact amount in both percentage and dollars by which the 7% limitation will be exceeded.

Explanation:

The Oregon University System policies governing the maintenance and funding of building and equipment reserves has been changed. Where the old model was based on a two part allocation, an annual percentage addition as well as a replenishment of the past year's expenditures, the new model is based solely on a five year plan for expected expenditures. The language we ask to strike was added last year to accommodate the old OUS system and requirements.

Submitted:

Maddy Melton, ASUO President 03-04

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