

## SEVENTH

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to play after the wind came up. I watched one player hit a 2-iron from 220 yards and his ball landed 50 yards short of the green. It was pretty tough conditions."

As for the Ducks, they shot a final round 28-over 388 to finish in seventh, equaling last year's conference championship finish.

"It was good to hold on to the place we started the day in, but other than that, I did not think we played very well," Oregon head coach Steve Nosler. "It was a tough day for us."

The Ducks' seventh-place finish did little to improve their chances as a bubble team hoping for one of the 12 NCAA West Regional bids. Oregon finished ahead of only one

## DUCK GOLF

team, Stanford, that currently holds one of the 12 bids. A finish in the top five would have given the Ducks a reasonable shot, but as it stands now, an outside chance at an at-large bid is Oregon's only hope.

Individually for Oregon, sophomore Justin St. Clair put the finishing touches on an impressive tournament performance with his final round 6-over 78. St. Clair was the Ducks' top

finisher at 8-over 296, good for a tie for 14th. This marked his third top 20 finish of the spring season, the most for any Oregon player.

Freshman Matt Ma recorded a top 25 finish in his first conference championship appearance. Ma carded a 72-80-71-78-301 for the tournament and finished tied for 24th. Fellow freshman Dustin Pe-warchuk carded the best round of the day for the Ducks, with his 2-over 74, which included four birdies, four bogeys and a double bogey. Pe-warchuk finished the tournament tied for 46th at 310.

Sophomore Gregg LaVoie, last year's top finisher for the Ducks in this event, carded a 74-77-76-79-306, good for a tie for 37th, at 18-over par. Sophomore Kyle Johnson finished in 36th at 305. Senior Mike Sica finished in 56th with a 32-over 320. The Ducks will now await Monday's announcement for regional bids.

Eighth-ranked Arizona fired a 5-over 365 to pass third round leader and rival Arizona State and take home the team title for the first time since 1991.

"It's a big win for us," Arizona head coach Rick LaRose said. "It means a lot to us to be champions of our conference when it's the toughest in the country."

Brian Smith is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.



Adam Amato Photographer

Johnny DuRocher understands the role of the backup quarterback in Oregon's offense and some of those who have filled the spot in the past.

## DuROCHER

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Clemens and Jason Fife.

Much like then, the backup position is open now. Even though DuRocher seems to have the inside track, fellow freshmen Dennis Dixon and Brady Leaf would like to have their say in the process.

"I think that Dennis Dixon has showed some things with his athletic ability," Bellotti said. "Johnny DuRocher has been very steady, and I like that. Brady Leaf has shown improvement and has a ways to go athletically, but he knows that. He's a good worker and student of the game. I'm pleased with the quarterback position."

DuRocher has made strides since coming to the Ducks as an early enrolled freshman. Listed at 197 pounds in the 2003 Oregon media guide, he's now at 215. Those 18 extra pounds have given him a more filled-out look, and where he once seemed smaller than the 6-foot-2, 214-pound Clemens, he no longer is.

Even though he redshirted last year, having seen a full season of college

football has translated into more mental maturity, as Clemens said.

"He's getting a lot more reps than in the fall, which helps," Clemens said. "He's learning things. He's maturing over the course of the spring."

"His confidence is infinitely greater than it was in the fall. That just comes from getting more reps."

In the team's three scrimmages, the Graham, Wash., native has been as impressive as any quarterback.

He was five of eight passing for 39 yards and one touchdown strike in the first scrimmage. He bettered himself in the second, completing six passes in 10 attempts for 95 yards. Finally, in the third, DuRocher was four of nine for 54 yards and one touchdown.

In each of the three scrimmages, DuRocher saw some time with the No. 1 offense.

So far, so good, but there's still plenty more to do.

"It's been going pretty well," DuRocher said of his spring. "It's about average. I've made some plays, but I think I've also hurt myself by making mistakes."

"You can always get better physically. And mentally, I don't

have the kind of experience that someone like Kellen does, so I just have to go back over the summer and watch film and just throw a lot."

DuRocher is aware of Oregon's history of backup quarterbacks. From Bill Musgrave to Akili Smith, A.J. Feeley to Joey Harrington, the Duck backup QB spot has had an NFL future associated with it.

Even if it hasn't always turned out to be a true success.

"Me and Kellen have kind of talked about stuff like that," DuRocher said. "It's kind of exciting for me to know that I might possibly be put into a position like that. It kind of gives me an added incentive to work hard over the summer."

During the summer, DuRocher will spend time in the film room. He'll work on his arm angle, his footwork, and his reads.

He could very well be the backup quarterback come this fall, something that has added presence in the Oregon offense.

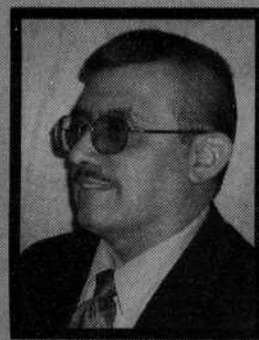
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## RICE

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In the investigation's report, Wilson, the Oregon coach from 1986-1989, is portrayed as a hard-nosed coach who wanted to know where her players were at all times, make sure they were physically "able" to play and, it seems, win at almost any cost.

Wilson's apparent demand of her players to return to top shape soon after an injury can be traced back to her days at Oregon. In 1989, Oregon's

starting right fielder, Sandy Scott, did not play in the Ducks' regional appearance due to an ankle injury. After Oregon won its regional, Wilson was quoted in the Emerald on May 23, 1989, as saying that Scott had been receiving "as much as 18 hours of treatment a day."

Seems a little excessive to allow a player just six hours of sleep and no in-class time just so that she can play in the World Series.

As co-interim head coaches, Scott Centala and Steve Dailey are apparently freeing the team from the alleged daily dosage of unprescribed medications.

However, Centala was named in the investigation as one of the people who "knew or should have known."

While Centala's involvement, if any, is unclear, it is possible that he and Wilson really did know nothing. People can choose to ignore things that they don't want to see, or perhaps Wilson was so focused on her team's success that she neglected to notice problems — even when they fell into her lap.

Contact the senior sports reporter at [mindirice@dailyemerald.com](mailto:mindirice@dailyemerald.com). Her opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

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