

IN BRIEF

Nealy makes NCAAs,
but team will miss out

Senior Johnna Nealy's sixth-place finish at the NCAA West Regional this

weekend helped the Ducks finish 10th in the field of 21.

Nealy carded a team low score of 220, which was good enough to earn her a spot at this year's NCAA Championships.

The Ducks opened Saturday's final round at the par-72 New Mexico State

University Golf Course in seventh place and in position to grab a team bid for the NCAA Championships but recorded a staggering 20-over 308, dropping them three spots in the field. Oregon finished with a score of 913, six strokes out of qualifying range for the NCAAs.

The tournament may have ended the Ducks' team season, but Nealy will continue to play May 17 at the NCAA Championships in Sunriver.

Nealy's finale at the Regional was a treat for those in attendance. The senior from Grants Pass took part in a two-hole playoff against Fresno State's Laura Leuthke. Leuthke scored a tournament low 68 in the final round, forcing the playoff. But she could not keep up the pace, and Nealy defeated her by one stroke on the second hole.

Nealy's teammate Kim McCready continued her consistent play in the final round, finishing tied for 11th at 223. The rest of Oregon's finishers

included freshman Victoria Wenslow (231), who tied for 48th, Erin Andrews (239) tying for 85th and Michelle Timpani (247), who tied at 103rd.

Sophia Sheridan (212) of No. 25 California took first place with ease after shaving three strokes off her second-round score to finish 2-under. She finished a comfortable five strokes ahead of No. 9 Tennessee's Violeta Retamoza (217).

Retamoza's second-place finish helped lead the Volunteers into a tie for first with No. 2 UCLA. The team title is the Bruins' second in as many years.

— Scott J. Adams

Men: Oregon on top going into Pac-10s

Continued from page 7

the crowd and commentary from a nearly hoarse stadium announcer.

"To win a race here in an Oregon uniform, there's nothing like it," Rupp said. "People can say (the program) isn't where it once was, but it feels so go to just run in front of these fans."

Rupp's finish was the third fastest in the United States this season and second fastest in the NCAA.

In other action on the track Saturday, junior hurdler Eric Mitchum capitalized on the absence of teammate A.K. Ikwuakor, capturing the title in the 400-meter hurdles.

Mitchum finished with a time of 52.17, but it wasn't the performance he was looking for. Mitchum summed up his time in one word: "crappy."

"I was hoping to go 51-something, but I keep on having these 52 (second) races, so I don't know what's going on," he said.

Mitchum offered a simple prescription for his problem.

"Run faster," Mitchum said. "That's all you have to do: Run faster, which means it's going to hurt some more, but you got to do what you got to do. The first 200 was kind of slow, which I think screwed me up."

Skipper back in action

Saturday marked the competitive return of sophomore Tommy Skipper in the field for Oregon after missing the last nine weeks due to injury.

The Sandy, Ore., native cleared 17 feet, 3/4 inches, but eventually lost to Southern Oregon's Robbie Johnston (17-4 1/2) and Nike's Piotr Buciaski.

"For a first meet, I'm just happy to be out there in front of the Oregon crowd," Skipper said. "As far as my jumps went, we just have to start somewhere."

Other Duck titles on Saturday included Sol Rexus' victory in the 110-meter hurdles, Travis Anderson's victory in the 400-meters and Kyle Alcorn's victory in the Bill McChesney Jr. Memorial Twilight Mile.

Decathletes score high

Oregon decathlete Andy Young finished second at the Pacific-10 Multi-Event Championships in Los Angeles on Sunday, followed closely by teammate Cody Fleming, who finished fourth.

Young, who was in third after the



ZANE RITT | PHOTOGRAPHER

Oregon junior Travis Anderson sprints to victory in the 400-meters on Saturday, beating out Lane Community College's Jason McGhee. Anderson finished with a time of 48.67 seconds.

first day, scored an NCAA provisional mark of 7,165 and jumped into second after Arizona's Robert Arnold suffered a horrendous discus competition and fell to sixth place on Sunday.

Because of the second- and

fourth-place finishes, Oregon will now go into next week's Pac-10 Championships with 13 team points for the event, the most in the conference.

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