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Men's golf heads to Big 12 championship

Buffs hope to compete with the best

By Gino Figlio on April 22, 2010

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0 tweets Whispering Pines golf course in Trinity, Texas marks the spot where the best and brightest of the Big 12's men golfers will converge this weekend.

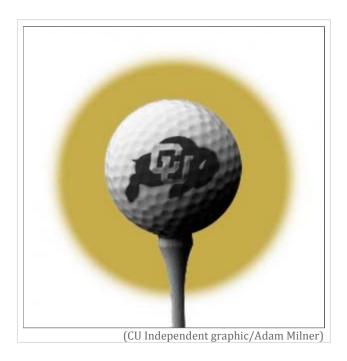
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The spot will host the Big 12 Men's Golf Championship beginning Friday and running through Sunday.

Last year's championship saw Oklahoma State emerge victoriously at Prairie Dunes Country Club in Hutchinson, Kan.

This year for the Buffs, the road to Texas is a bumpy one.

The team finished in 11th place in the season finale at the Aggie Invitational at Traditions Golf Course in College Station, Texas.



Despite the hiccup, CU head coach Roy Edwards said he is optimistic about his team's potential and that the team is ready to bounce back.

"It's been a bit of an up and down season for us," Edwards said. "One of the things we've really been encouraged with is the development of a lot of our guys. Four of our starting five guys are new to the lineup. We've been excited about their development, really excited. The most important part of our season is in front of us right now."

Senior Justin Bardgett is one player who brings high hopes to CU. And his personal goals for this weekend are certainly no secret.

"I'd obviously like to win the Big 12 tournament," Bardgett said. "We have a pretty tough conference this year. [Oklahoma] State and Texas A&M are two of the best teams in the country. I'd like to play well for three days. If we can beat all the teams in the [Big 12] north [division] that'd be a really good weekend."

Sophomore Sebastian Heisele gave his praises for the leadership Bardgett has brought to the team this year.

"He's my roommate and we always talk about how we can improve our team and have a strong finish to the season," Heisele said. "We spend a lot of time talking to each other on what we can do [better]. He's been there for five years, he knows what he's talking about."

Heisele himself is a young, bright spot for the Buffs, who stand to lose just two players to graduation this year. He said he anticipates a strong team performance at this weekend's tournament and also looks to make a splash of his own.

"In general we just need to have a decent week to fair well as a team," Heisele said. "We were talking about it when we got back from Texas [that] we'd like to finish as the number one team in the Big 12 North since we haven't really had a good year as of yet."

He summed up his personal aim for the weekend.

"A top 10 [individual finish] would always be nice," Heisele said.

Regardless of where the Buffs end up finishing, Heisele had kind words for the role his coach has had in helping the players shape their game this year.

"[Coach Edwards] has been coaching for a while and he really understands what the key is to being successful," Heisele said. "He specifies the areas that we need to work on. That's what we'll be trying to work on before we head out, we all know what our strengths and weaknesses are."

Contact CU Independent Staff Writer Gino Figlio at Gino.figlio@colorado.edu.

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Women's golf Big 12 tournament preview

Team unsure what to expect from Norman course

By Michael Krumholtz on April 22, 2010

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2 tweets No one on her team has played the course at Norman, Okla. before. After this weekend, that will change for coach Anne Kelly and her CU golf team.

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"I've been there with other teams," Kelly said. "It's a very good facility. But in those Midwest areas you never know what kind of weather you're going to get."

The weathermen are predicting scattered thunderstorms to hit the Oklahoma University campus early in the weekend.

Rain won't bother Emily Talley's game, though. Last month's Big 12 player of the month said she doesn't mind what the weather brings.

"I'm actually looking forward to playing in tough conditions," Talley said. "Last year at Lubbock it was really windy, so I'm just expecting really bad weather conditions."

(CU Independent graphic/Adam Milner)

The ladies went to Lubbock, Texas for last season's Big 12 tournament. They tied for 8th place, finishing near the bottom of the pack. That trend continued this year, as the team did not finished above 6th in a tournament until the Indiana Invitational, their last tournament of the season, where they placed 2nd.

Talley lead the Buffs in the tournament last season, finishing 6th individually and earning a spot on the All-Tournament Team. Again this season the sophomore leads the Buffs into the tournament with her team low (or high in the golf world) average score of 75 per round.

Her coach said she is hoping the team's successful finish at the Indiana Invitational can ride on into Oklahoma.

"We actually had a chance to win the Indiana tournament," Kelly said. "Shooting some low scores is always good for confidence and that experience should help us going into the Big 12."

The Buffs finished six strokes behind the home team Hoosiers at Bloomington. One of the three seniors on the team, Dominique Pytlewski, said her team improved at the Invitational.

"Things started to come together for most of the people on our team," Pytlewski said. "It's really just been that we haven't got everybody going at the same time."

The fall season began with a last place finish at the Collegiate Match Play Championship in Daytona Beach and it ended with a 14th place out of 18 teams at the Las Vegas Collegiate Showdown tournament in Nevada.

During the spring season, which began in February, Kelly said the team improved with each tournament.

"The team is continually improving over the course of the year," Kelly said. "Towards the end of the season they have come on strong and hopefully that's going to pay off for us."

The players and their coach said they don't know what to expect from the course at Norman. For the team of first-time Norman visitors, including Talley, anything could happen at the Big 12 Tournament.

"I haven't been to Oklahoma yet," Talley said. "I guess I'm expecting it to be this like farm course; it is Oklahoma."

Even their senior leader Pytlewski said it would be hard to give a prediction of individual or team scores. It's all going to depend on that Midwest weather.

"It feels like we could fare a little bit better in this tournament than we have [over the season]," Pytlewski said. "We don't really know what to expect. I heard there was going to be thunderstorms, so it's going to be typical Big 12 weather."

Contact CU Independent Staff Writer Michael Krumholtz at Michael.krumholtz@colorado.edu.

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