

Colorado's Symons finishes seventh

Bufs also seventh as team at Mark Simpson Colorado Invitational

By Gary Baines For the Camera
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 09/28/2010 11:56:31 PM MDT

ERIE -- The University of Colorado men's golf team had much bigger things in mind, performance-wise, for the inaugural Mark Simpson Colorado Invitational -- as in, winning it. But even with a middle-of-the-pack finish, the Bufs didn't come away from their tournament empty-handed.

Senior Luke Symons, returning to college action this month after undergoing two hip surgeries in the last 14 months, posted his first top-10 college finish in more than two years, placing seventh Tuesday at Colorado National Golf Club.

Junior Kevin Kring recorded the second top-10 of his college career, placing 10th after closing with a 4-under-par 68. He needed just 24 putts in Tuesday's final round.

And former Fairview High School standout Brennan Dolan, competing in his first college tournament ever, finished 15th while playing strictly as an individual for CU.

"There were times when I was feeling like I was never going to play," said Dolan, who led Fairview to the 2007 5A state title. "There were other times you think everything happens for a reason. I've matured a ton in the last 13 months."

All told, the Bufs ended up seventh in the 14-team competition, though they shot a strong 2-under-par 286 on Tuesday. New Mexico won the first Simpson team title by one stroke over Colorado State (859 vs. 860). CU, which led after the first round, checked in at 874.

Finishing in the top 10 individually "is nice, but the team didn't do what we wanted to do, so even if I had won and the team finished (seventh), it wouldn't be that satisfying," Symons said. "Coming in, we thought we had an advantage."

Symons posted an even-par 72 Tuesday to finish at 2-under-par 214 overall. San Jose State's Mark Hubbard, a Denver resident, won the tournament as a final-round 70 left him at 209.

CU coach Roy Edwards said Dolan, who redshirted his first year at CU, has earned a spot among the six players who will compete for the Bufs Friday and Saturday at the Tucker Invitational in New Mexico.

"Brennan hadn't been playing very well and hadn't been practicing very well," Edwards said. "For him to come out and put that aside and compete and shoot a score says something. He's going to go to our next event because he came out and proved it to us in his first tournament. We're proud of him for that."

Dolan welcomed the change of competition after more than a year of primarily just going head-to-head with CU teammates in practice and qualifying.

"The funniest thing that struck me (Monday) was that I'd forgotten what it was like to play with other people," he said. "I've played with the same guys for 13 months. It was really weird standing on the first tee playing with three guys I didn't know from other schools. I enjoyed it. I had a good time."

Meanwhile, Edwards felt CU's first men's invitational in Colorado since 1993 went over well. The event is named in honor of Mark Simpson, who served as the CU men's golf coach for nearly 29 years before succumbing to cancer in late 2005.

"We were very pleased," Edwards said. "We heard a lot of good comments from the coaches and players. For the first year to pull it off the way we did, we were excited."

"We wanted to do something to honor coach Simpson and keep his memory alive to college golfers. They were in high school and younger when he coached, so they don't know who he was, but we're trying to educate them on what he

meant to the college game and to the game of golf in general. From that standpoint I feel really good about it."

Colorado National Golf Club will host two more college tournaments this season. The CU women will hold their Heather Farr Memorial Invitational at the course Oct. 8-9, and the NCAA Men's Central Regional will be there May 19-21.

Mark Simpson Colorado Invitational

At Par-72 Colorado National GC in Erie

Team scores -- 1. New Mexico 300-276-283--859; 2. Colorado State 296-284-280--860; 3. Kansas 296-287-286--869; 4. San Jose State 296-287-287--870; 5. New Mexico State 296-290-286--872; 6. Brigham Young 295-289-289--873; 7. Colorado 294-294-286--874; 8. Denver 300-297-288--885; 9. Utah 304-300-294--898; 10. Texas El Paso 302-292-304--900; 11. Wyoming 311-291-299--901; 12. Northern Colorado 297-303-310--910; 13. Air Force 306-293-312--911; 14. Southern Utah 329-303-309--941.

Top individuals -- 1. Mark Hubbard, San Jose State, 69-70-70--209; 2. Travis Ross, New Mexico, 74-69-68--211; 3. (tie) Gaston De La Torre, New Mexico State, 69-73-70--212; Matt Hovan, San Jose State, 73-71-68--212; 5. (tie) Ryan Peterson, CSU, 75-70-68--213; Sam Chavez, New Mexico, 76-66-71--213; 7. (tie) Luke Symons, Colorado, 70-72-72--214; Zachary Blair, BYU, 71-73-70--214; 9. Kory Harrell, CSU, 76-70-69--215; 10. (tie) Kevin Kring, Colorado, 75-73-68--216; Zahkai Brown, CSU, 71-75-70--216; Kirby Pettitt, CSU, 74-69-73--216; Jeff Bell, Kansas, 70-73-73--216; Jeff Evans, Southern Utah, 74-73-69--216.

CU scores -- 7. Luke Symons 70-72-72--214; 10. Kevin Kring 75-73-68--216; 27. Derek Fribbs 73-76-72--221; 55. Pat Wilson 81-73-74--228; 55. Sebastian Heisele 76-77-75--228; Competing only as individuals: 15. Brennan Dolan 72-74-71--217; 27. Jason Burstyn 76-72-73--221; 42. Johnny Widmer 77-74-74--225; 51. Michael Imperato 77-76-74--227.

Close Window

Send To Printer