



CU golfers banking on experience

Women's squad has fared well on Big 12 tourney course

By Ryan Thorburn
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BOULDER, Colo. — Oklahoma State and the wind.

Those are the two daunting elements the rest of the field will be attempting to overcome at the Big 12 women's golf championships, which begin on Friday and run through Sunday in Lubbock, Texas.

"Every year the Big 12 keeps improving. The level of competition is better and closer than it used to be with all 12 teams," Colorado coach Anne Kelly said. "But Oklahoma state is a very strong team this year. In order for them to get beat someone is going to have to play great golf for three days."

The Buffs have played some of their best golf in the Lone Star State, including a third-place finish (tied with Texas Tech) on the par-73, 6,525-yard Rawls Course in Lubbock last October.

Freshman Emily Talley and junior Christine Kim both finished in the top 11 individually in that 13-team tournament. And Dominique Pytlewski won a tournament on the same track two years ago.

"The experience on that course will definitely help," Kelly said. "And I think last year's experience on Oklahoma State's course (Karsten Creek) ... I mean, that was the hardest course I've ever seen. The difficult conditions that we faced there last year and our experience on the Rawls Course should give us some confidence. The biggest challenge is dealing with the wind and playing smart. It's always windy there and I believe the forecast is calling for wind."

The championship format consists of a total of 54 holes with 18 being played each of the three days. In 2008, Oklahoma State captured its sixth conference crown.

CU is grouped with Kansas State and Nebraska for the first round and will tee off at 8 a.m. on Friday off No. 10.

Netters to begin

Big 12 tourney play

The CU tennis team will be the No. 5 seed at the Big 12 Tournament and will face No. 12 Kansas State in the opening round at 9 a.m. today in Norman, Okla., at the Headington Family Tennis Center.

On Wednesday in Norman the Buffs lost to top-seeded Baylor 4-0 in a match that had originally been scheduled to be played in Boulder on March 28 but was postponed due to inclement weather.

Playing a tournament-style format, the No. 5 nationally ranked Bears (21-4, 11-0) took the doubles point claiming the top two positions with their dominant tandem. In singles, Baylor secured the top three positions with their trio of nationally ranked players, all in straights sets.

The Bears won their fifth straight regular season conference title.

"Baylor is the best team we have played all year," CU head coach Nicole Kenneally said. "We definitely learned from this match and now we'll focus our attention on the conference championships."

CU (11-9 overall) finished conference play with a 7-4 record after a 5-0 start. K-State is 4-14 overall and 1-10 in the conference.

The winner of the CU/K-State match will take on No. 4 seed Nebraska, which beat the Buffs 5-2 in Boulder last weekend, at 11 a.m. Friday.

CU won at least seven conference matches for the third consecutive spring totaling 24 victories in that span. That's the most Big 12 match wins for a CU team over any three-year span.

Notable

The Big 12 men's golf championships will be contested in Hutchinson, Kan., April 27-29 at the Prairie Dunes Country Club. CU is the No. 6 seed and will tee off at 8:50 a.m. next Tuesday.



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