

Bearcats Make History, Show Improvement

Youth Served for Men's Team

The mark of the men's team was youth as four freshmen saw action for the Bearcats on the links. One of those players, John Clodfelder, sat out the first two tournaments of the year, before making his debut at the Xavier Invitational. Despite a finish of 77th, Clodfelder was able to secure the team's third lowest round of the tournament when he fired a second round 74. From that point on, Clodfelder went on to play in all but one of the remaining tournaments and finished the season with the third lowest average (77.8) and single round (72) of the season.

Chad Wilson was also a steady freshman contributor for the squad, qualifying for all but one of the season's tournament and carding a 78.9 average. Justin Wilson and Pat Heekin also saw time, finishing with 79.8 and 81.3 averages, respectively.

Three Women Wind Up Careers

While freshmen were filling out the men's line-up, the women's squad had a different look as Mandy Puckett, Andrea Williams and Karen Hodapp each wrapped up their four-year careers as Bearcats.

Puckett and Williams were nearly mirror images of each other during their senior campaigns as their season averages and finishes were close to identical throughout the year. Puckett finished second on the squad with an 83.6 average, just ahead of Williams' final tally of 84.3. No where were the finishes any closer than in the final two events of the season, when each finished tied for fifth at the Krump Kup and came within one position of each other in the Conference USA Tournament. Hodapp, meanwhile, concluded her senior season playing in all but one tournament and finishing with an 89.1 average.

Couch Makes History at Notre Dame

The 2002-03 season was a good one for sophomore Allison Couch, as she not only finished the year as the squad's number one golfer, but she also made history by becoming the first UC female golfer to win a tournament since 1999.

Tied for second heading into the final 18 holes of the Notre Dame Invitational, Couch fired a 78 in the last round to win by one stroke. Couch had previously carded rounds of 77 and 75, topping a field of 105 golfers.

As a reward for earning the medalist honor, Couch was tabbed as Conference USA's Golfer of the Month for September. With the win, Couch became the first Bearcat to win since Jena Harris won the Illini Spring Invitational in 1999.



Top Flight Performances

While both teams struggled with consistency throughout the season, early April proved fruitful for both squads as each posted their top performances of the year.

The men's team had a great two-week span at the beginning of the month as they placed eighth of 21 at the Yale Spring Opener and came back the next week to finish fifth of 14 at the Bullock Collegiate Classic. At Yale, the Bearcats used a solid team outing to get the result, as all five golfers finished within six strokes of each other. The next week, Neil Lykins was the star as he placed a season-best fifth, following rounds of 75, 74 and 72.

Just days after the conclusion of the tournament at Yale, the women came through with a solid outing at the Bronco Invitational, hosted by Western Michigan. Placing four golfers in the top 21, the Bearcat women were able to secure a third place finish in the 10-team final stand-

ings. Allison Couch had one of her best outings of the season, as she earned one of her three top-five finishes, coming home tied for fourth at WMU.

Bearcats Successful at Krump Kup

The Cincinnati men's and women's golf teams competed in a unique event on April 16, capturing second place in the Krump Kup, hosted by Northern Kentucky University. The event combines each school's top two men's scores with its top two women's scores to crown an overall team champion.

On the men's side, Cincinnati was led by Chris Larbes who tied for third with a 79 and John Clodfelder, a fifth place finisher with an 80.

The women's team got an 85 from Allison Couch to finish in fourth and an 86 from senior Andrea Williams, good for a tie for fifth. Mandy Puckett also fired an 86 to finish tied with Williams.



Lykins Wraps Up Stellar Career

After four years as one of the Bearcats' top golfers, Neil Lykins wrapped up his Cincinnati career during the 2002-03 season. Lykins' career started with just five rounds and an 81.4 average during his freshman campaign. Over the next three years, though, Lykins became UC's No. 1 golfer and finished his career with a 74.9 average. His name is all over the UC record books as he is tied for the second-lowest round ever shot by a Bearcat golfer, a 66 during his sophomore year. Lykins finished his career with seven rounds below 70 and had the team's lowest average in each of his last three seasons.

Neil Lykins' Career Stats

Year	Rounds	Total	Average	Low
1999-00	5	407	81.4	77
2000-01	35	2606	74.5	66
2001-02	31	2275	73.4	68
2002-03	26	1976	76.0	71
<i>Total</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>7264</i>	<i>74.9</i>	<i>66</i>