

University of Cincinnati Men's Golf

2018 American Athletic Conference Championship Preview

Tournament Notes

LOOKING BACK AT LAST YEAR'S EVENT: Cincinnati finished the 2017 AAC Championships at 20-over 872, tying Houston for second place, 15 strokes behind winner USF (5-over 857) ... the finish marked the Bearcats best at a conference tournament since winning back-to-back Great Midwest Conference titles in 1993 and 1994 ... Cincinnati entered the tournament ranked No. 87 in the nation according to GolfStat rankings and finished ahead of No. 46 UCF and No. 75 SMU. Houston was ranked at No. 54 while USF came in at No. 56 ... Austin Squires, the AAC Player of the Year, registered his conference-leading fifth top-5 finish of 2016-17, tying for fifth at 1-over 214. He led all 45 players in the field with 13 birdies in the event ... Jake Fox recorded his best finish in a collegiate event, tying for ninth at 5-over 218.

CINCINNATI'S AAC CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY:

2017 – Tied for second at 20-over 857... Austin Squires tied for fifth at 1-over 214
2016 – Sixth at 27-over 891 ... Jared O'Kelley tied for 14th at 2-over 218
2015 – Sixth at 12-over 876 ... Jared O'Kelley tied for eighth at 3-under 213
2014 – Sixth at 23-over 887 ... Baxter Reeves finished 14th at 2-over 218

Bearcats Lineup

No. 1 – Austin Squires – Jr., Union, Ky./Ryle High School

Leads the Bearcats with a 71.86 stroke average this season ... has posted seven Top 25 finishes in 2017-18, including in each of the last five tournaments ... claimed medalist honors at the Firestone Invitational at 8-under 208 in October, winning medalist honors at the event for the second consecutive year.

LAST SEASON: Named the 2016-17 American Athletic Conference Player of the Year and a unanimous first team all-conference selection ... registered an AAC-best six top-5 finishes ... earned 11 top-25 finishes in 13 tournaments ... recorded 21 of 38 rounds with par or better scores ... became only the fifth player in school history to participate in the NCAA Tournament, tying for 21st place at 7-over 72-76-75=223 at the West Lafayette Regional – the highest finish by a Bearcat in school history ... recorded a school-record 71.92 stroke average in 38 rounds ... qualified for the 2017 U.S. Amateur in Los Angeles, Calif.

CAREER FINISHES AT THE AAC CHAMPIONSHIP: Tied for fifth at 1-over 214 during the 2017 championship as a sophomore ... tied for 29th at 11-over 227 at the 2016 championship as a freshman.

CAREER BEST SCORES:

Low Round: 65 – Second Round of the 2017 Firestone Invitational
Low Tournament: 208 – 2017 Firestone Invitational

No. 2 – Jake Fox – Soph., Cincinnati, Ohio/Moeller High School

Owens the second-best stroke average on the team at 73.72 with four Top 25 finishes this season, including a season-best tie for 10th place at even par 216 at the Firestone Invitational ... tied for 20th place at 2-over 146 in the rain-shortened Boilermaker Invitational last week ... finished fourth on the team with a 75.27 stroke average a year ago, registering five top-25 finishes and one top-10 result.

CAREER FINISHES AT THE AAC CHAMPIONSHIP – Registered his best collegiate finish of his young career, tying for ninth at 5-over 218 at the 2017 championship as a freshman.

CAREER BEST SCORES:

Low Round: 67 – Second Round of the 2016 Bearcat Invitational
Low Tournament: 211 – 2017 Quail Valley Intercollegiate

No. 3 – Nicolas Osterburg – Fr., Indianapolis, Ind./Perry Meridian High School

Has played in all 10 tournaments this year as a freshman with a 74.52 stroke average, fifth-best on the team ... owns three Top 25 finishes ... tied for 13th place with a season-best 7-under 209 at the Quail Valley Intercollegiate in the fall ... tied for 15th at 1-under 215 at the Seminole Intercollegiate in late February.

CAREER FINISHES AT THE AAC CHAMPIONSHIP – First appearance

CAREER BEST SCORES:

Low Round: 68 – Three times

Low Tournament: 209 – 2017 Quail Valley Intercollegiate

No. 4 – Davis Baxter – Sr., Nolsenville, Tenn./Ravenwood High School

Has played in nine of 10 tournaments, ranking third on the squad with a 74.08 stroke average ... owns four Top 30 finishes, including placing 14th at 1-over 217 at the Firestone Invitational in the fall ... owns eighth career Top 20 finishes, including claiming medalist honors at the rain-shortened 2015 Mountaineer Intercollegiate at 5-under 139 ... qualified for the 2017 U.S. Amateur in Los Angeles, Calif. ... registered a course-record 62 at Coldstream Country Club in the summer 2017.

CAREER FINISHES AT THE AAC CHAMPIONSHIP – First appearance

CAREER BEST SCORES:

Low Round: 68 – Three times

Low Tournament: 211 – 2014 Marshall Invitational

No. 5 – Andrew Mayhew – R-Fr., Dayton, Ohio/Oakwood High School

Has played in eighth tournaments as a redshirt-freshman this season ... ranks fourth on the team with a 74.17 stroke average ... owns a pair of Top 20 finishes, finishing third at 1-over 217 at the 2018 Colleton River Collegiate and placing 13th at 5-under 208 at the 2017 Bearcat Invitational.

CAREER FINISHES AT THE AAC CHAMPIONSHIP – First appearance

CAREER BEST SCORES:

Low Round: 68 – Second Round of the 2017 Bearcat Invitational

Low Tournament: 208 – 2017 Bearcat Invitational

Recapping the 2017-18 Season

Cincinnati owns three Top 5 finishes, including a second-place result at the Firestone Invitational (4-under 860) in the fall ... The Bearcats also tied for second at the Colleton River Collegiate (29-over 893) and took fourth at the Seminole Intercollegiate (4-under 860) in the spring ... Junior Austin Squires won medalist honors at the Firestone Invitational while sophomore Jake Fox tied for 10th place at the event ... Redshirt-freshman Andy Mayhew took third at the Colleton River Collegiate.

Advancing to NCAAs

A win at this week's AAC Championship will give Cincinnati an automatic berth into the NCAA Tournament. The Bearcats have never competed as a team at the national event. Last season, Austin Squires became only the fifth player in school history to participate in the NCAA Tournament, tying for 21st place at 7-over 72-76-75=223 at the West Lafayette Regional – the highest finish by a Bearcat in school history.