

Former North Hardin Golfer Leads Florida State Into NCAA Tournament

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May 19, 2017

The Hardin Local

Florida State golfer and former North Hardin standout, Lydia Gumm will lead her team into the NCAA Tournament for the fourth, and final time.

The Florida State Seminoles Women's Golf team is riding a wave of success as they prepare for the NCAA Division I Women's Golf Championships at Rich Harvest Farms, hosted by Northern Illinois University. This Seminoles golf team is currently ranked 4th in nation, and have five of the Top 100 players in the Country. This 2016-2017 team has brought unprecedented success to the Seminoles program, winning six of their nine tournament appearances, and becoming the winningest team in program history!

With all of the team and individual success this season, there has been one constant over the past few years, and that is Senior Lydia Gumm.

When asked if there was any sort of adjustments from high school to college, Gumm stated, "In high school you are a little more focused on your own individual play, but at the collegiate level, you focus a lot on your team. We are really like one big family."

Gumm may be remembered around Kentucky as a Golfer who was a seven-time All-State Girl's Golf team honoree, a Ms. Kentucky golf award winner five times, a seven-time All-Area Player of the Year, 10 time all-Area First-Team selection at North Hardin High School, played in the Kentucky High School State Championship Tournament 10 times, earned six regional state championships, and much more. Needless to say, Gumm had a very successful golf career prior to attending Florida State. With all the accolades she has received, Gumm said that her win at the Florida Challenge, where she tied for first, has meant the most to her throughout her career.

Since arriving on campus, Gumm has found success on the Golf Course; in Fall 2013, she was one of four Florida State Golfers to play in all four of their fall events. Not only did she compete in the events, but she performed fairly well, with finishes of 28, 90, T57, and T58. Gumm's success would continue as she went into Spring 2014, where she would appear in the Seminoles' starting line-up in all seven events, which would include her first career ACC Championship, where she would finish T22, and NCAA regional Championship event, where she would finish T36. During the Spring, Gumm became the Seminoles' fourth-leading golfer, with a 75.35 stroke average, including 13 of 20 rounds where she would score a 75 or below.

In the fall of 2014 Gumm continued to build to her golf resume as she appeared in all four events as a member of the Florida State starting line-up, averaged a career-low 72.42 strokes through 12 rounds, extended her consecutive tournaments-played streak to 15, earned career best statistics for a single round, and finished as Florida State's leader for the first time in her career at the Schooner Fall classic, where she tied for 24th.

Later that fall, Gumm would earn the first top-10 finish of her career at the Mo Morial Invitational, where she finished seventh. Throughout the fall Gumm would earn two of her 12 career top-20 finishes at the Mo Morial (seventh), and the Lady Paladin Invitational (Tied for 17th).

In the Spring semester of 2015 Gumm would reach new heights as a member of Florida State's Women's Golf team. In the spring she would earn All-ACC honors averaging a 73.65 stroke average through six events. Gumm would be named as a team captain in the spring, and helped lead Florida State to the NCAA Championships for the 10th consecutive season, and help the team. The Seminoles would play in the 2015 NCAA San Antonio Regional Championship where Gumm would record the first eagle of her Florida State career, and the Seminoles would finish in a tie for 10th place in the team standings.

Over the next two years, Gumm showed nothing but consistency and excellence on the golf course with 14 Top-20 finishes, and nine of those being Top-10 finishes. Now finishing up her fourth and final year at Florida State, Gumm has helped the Seminoles, ranked fourth in the nation, reach the NCAA Championship tournament for her school record fourth time, and her second consecutive year in the NCAA Championship Finals. This time last year, Gumm finished the Championship round tied for 53, but this year she is looking to capitalize on a successful year with eight Top-20 finishes and six top-10 finishes through 11 events, including the ACC Championships and NCAA Columbus Regional Championships.

The Florida State Seminoles Tee off at 1:00 p.m. EST, at Rich Harvest Farms, hosted by Northern Illinois University. Although Gumm has traveled all over the country playing golf, she says that Lincoln Trail Golf Course still holds a special place in her heart, and is one of her favorite courses. Gumm recalls growing up, playing every day at Lincoln Trail, and during Summers, will come back home to practice and help mentor other golfers.

Gumm has recently graduated from Florida State. When asked what her next step is when she finishes up her collegiate career, she stated that she will be moving to Dallas to work as a Golf instructor. She would later say that she would love to become a golf coach at the college level in the future.

We want to wish Lydia Gumm and the Florida State Seminoles the best of luck as they compete for an NCAA Championship. Here is hoping that Gumm can finish her already impressive career at Florida State in impressive fashion.