

September 16, 2009

Dear CACC Golf Friends,

Our first tournament of the 2009-2010 season is now in the books. Wallace State C.C. hosted their fall Invitational in Cullman Monday & Tuesday. This was a 54-hole tournament where we played 36 on Monday and 18 today. Weather forecasts came true with the scattered thunder showers on Monday. We had a 90 minute interruption late in the afternoon which finally gave way to allow the remainder of the field to finish just before dark.

As I mentioned in my pre-tournament report, I took the whole team and played them as they qualified. The low 5 men played on the Blue Team and the remaining 5 played on the White Team. I was able to do this, not because we have a whole lot of money (boy oh boy – I promise) but because the entry fee was very low. It was good to see them all go under the gun. There were some moments of exceptional play by nearly all of my golfers and I have to tell you, I was very pleased and this tournament created more excitement in me about how this year may develop.

Zach Primavera, who was playing #1 for the Trojans found a familiar place in the lead on the first 18 and after 36. In fact, Zach was leading through the final hole. Golf can be cruel, as most sports and life, but this was a tough nut to swallow. Zach hit an outstanding drive on the par 5 18th hole, which left him about 185 yards from the hole. The ball had come to rest in a lie in the grass which could make the ball jump. Knowing that the ball was going to go further than normal, Zach hit an 9 iron (that's right, 9 iron from 185) that left his club as pure as you could hope for but flew over the green and bounded out of bounds. Rules of Golf, Zach had to hit another ball from the same spot and it landed in the middle of the green and it too bounded in the air a few times and went OB. On his 3rd attempt, Zach's ball landed on the front of the green and released about 10 feet behind the hole where he 2-putted and made an 8. Zach lost the tournament to a fine player from Meridian C.C. by 2 shots. Although broken hearted, Zach accepted the bad break pretty darn courageously for a young man. You can bet Zach will have a great many more chances when the ball may bounce closer to the hole rather than out of play to allow for a win. Zach's 2nd place finish did keep him in the All-Tournament Team and allowed him to be exempt for our next tournament.

Also finishing in the top-5 was freshman Paul Harris who played 3 very solid rounds of golf for CACC this week, shooting scores of 69, 71 and 68 for a total of 208 (8 under par). Just missing the top-5 were freshman Chaz Fairbrother of Newnan, GA. who shot rounds of 71, 69 and 74 for total of 214 (2 under) and sophomore Lewis Gruber who shot 71, 73 and 71 for 215 (1 under par). One note on Lewis, last week while I was expressing my pride in the awards that were won by our CACC Golfers, I forgot to mention that Lewis had earned honors of PING 2nd string All-American. I apologize to Lewis for overlooking that tremendous accomplishment. We had a number of other players who had a round or two under par as well. Helping to secure the win for our CACC Blue Team, Ethan Frazier shot 69 in the final round today and a sophomore who I've been waiting to see shine did so today, sophomore from Scotland, David Parlane had a terrific round of 68.

It was very good to see that our near-by competition, Wallace State and Meridian C.C. have also been working hard on improving their teams. Wallace hasn't been as strong over the past two years as they have been historically, but they're back. Meridian's golf team joined the D-1 ranks last year and they have a couple of new power-house players on their squad that are improving their team. Although Brevard C.C. did not have a very good showing at this event, I could see that their players have a lot of talent and will be tough competitors for the rest of the year. Faulkner State has also brought in some fine golfers and they too will be ones to be leery of as we progress this fall and spring.

Our CACC Golf Team is deeper in talent from #1 through the #10 man than in any previous year. This will certainly make for some interesting qualifiers and hopefully successful tournament play all year. Our White Team, who finished 4th in the tournament played quite nicely but showed that we have some work ahead of us to get where we need to be. However they all did play hard. As you look at team scores from Golfstat's website, you won't see the CACC White Team totals listed, however the player's scores

will be noted as Individuals. You will also not see the two D-2 teams, Northeast Community College and East Central Community College as they have yet to join Golfstat, but they finished in the 8th and 9th place positions.

The Trojans' Blue Team led from the first round all the way through to a tremendous win over host team Wallace State. Our Trojans shot team scores of 281, 287 and 281 for an all-time low for any of my golf teams of 15 under par. Wallace finished in 2nd place shooting 11 under par and Meridian C.C. was not too far behind shooting a team score of 8 under par. You can well imagine there was some very fine golf to watch this week. We've played this golf tournament in the past where even par ran away with the tournament. It just proves that the caliber of play from young golfers these days have improved and also that CACC Golf is officially back on the track we need to be.

Please visit <http://www.golfstat.com/2009-2010/men/mtourf109/M2328.htm> for a total recap of the golf tournament with individual and team scores. The Trojans will be traveling to Meridian, Mississippi to play in their fall tournament on the 28th and 29th of September.

Thank you all for being so supportive of our collegiate athletic program. We will continue to do our best in representing our College, community, alumni, friends and family as best as we possibly can.

Coach Dave Jennings