

October 14, 2009

Hello CACC Golf Friends,

Can you believe it's already mid-October? My Mother warned me that time would fly, but I had no idea it was by jet. At any rate, the CACC Golf Team has just concluded our 3rd of 5 tournaments for the fall season. I just hosted the NJCAA D-1 Preview Championship in Huntsville, AL at the RTJ Hampton Cove River Course this Monday & Tuesday. We had a fabulous turnout for this event even with the poor economy. There were 17 college teams participating in the event. Some colleges came from as far as southern Florida, Iowa, the North Carolina coast and Western Texas.

I really became nervous in the success of this tournament when I found out that the Flint River, which runs along the River Course in Huntsville, had come out of its banks last week and closed the golf course for a couple days. My nerves were frayed more in looking at our weather forecast for the upcoming week. Sure enough, the good Lord takes care of fools like me! Even though we had rain on Monday, it wasn't torrential enough to overflow the River. Sunday was very pleasant but Monday, the boys played, clad in their rain gear and toting umbrellas all day. There wasn't more than 10 minutes within the day that we didn't have some form of precipitation – but we played on. The golf course was soaked and with these conditions we reverted to lift-clean & place. Whenever rain plays a part in golf, things slow down. By lunch time, I realized that there was no chance that there was going to be enough sunlight to get in 36 holes of golf on the first day, so I made the call to end play for the day after 18 holes and alter the tournament from a 54-hole event to 36. Honestly, the field was quite grateful. Tuesday, we caught a break in the weather and had no rain. It was pleasant to play, even though there were few places to be found without casual water.

Just a few days before the tournament began I received a call from a Texas team who had to withdraw from the tournament. Being too late to recruit another college team, I took 3 individuals and invited my co-host from Nationals, Coach York of Wallace State to bring along 2 of his extra players, so that we could maintain 3-somes throughout the groupings. In the first round, we were paired with our National Champion Team, McLennan C.C. from Waco, Texas and Indian Hills C.C. from Ottumwa, Iowa. Both teams are quite strong and I really wanted my players to play against, who I felt would be the strongest teams in the field.

Our team played pretty solid and stayed in contact with the first round leaders, McLennan and Brevard who both shot 289 (1 over par) as a team. CACC was one shot back at 290 with a herd of teams close on our heels. In the 2nd round, we were paired with the two leading teams. This second round was really exciting. My golfers started very well and I felt that we had even passed McLennan. Brevard seemed to be fading quite a bit. After 9 holes, we were 7 under par and playing solid and that was before sophomore Zach Primavera started his move. We ran into a bit of a buzz saw when one of my players hit two shots into a hazard off of 13 and finished the hole with an 8, then not too many holes later we picked up a couple other bogeys and the birdie putts were no longer falling. The good news is that our Trojan golfers did not panic or lose composure. They continued to finish the tournament the best they could without ever giving up.

McLennan did not falter as they completed their round - they got back in front of us and held the lead. This is team with a lot of talent, better than CACC? I don't think so, but they came out on top in the Preview. It showed us, on a bigger stage, of some of the small things we need to do. We shot 288 on the final round and with McLennan's 282 we concluded the tournament in 2nd, by 7 strokes.

In our last tournament, we finished in a close 2nd place to host team Meridian C.C. and after this 2nd place finish our CACC Trojan golfers are ready to make amends in our final two tournaments of the fall. These boys, who play golf for our College have a great deal of pride and have the drive to win. Today's rain did not slow them down from practicing at Willow Point and our on-campus indoor facility. You've seen it when a powerhouse football team is surprisingly beaten – you wouldn't want to be dressing out for the next opposing game's team. I feel the same thing could happen this coming week as we travel to Gulfport, MS. We will be facing a couple very tough teams in Division II, South Mountain C.C. and last year's D-II Champions, Lon Morris C.C. but I think the Trojans will fare well.

Zach Primavera once again led the Trojans tournament scoring with a fourth place finish. Zach was closely followed by Barrett Milam who has his game back in shape and is playing with his old confidence, thankfully. Barrett's cousin, Jud Milam played as an individual this week and had a fine second round of 68 allowing him to finish tied for 8th. Freshman, Nick Ward came through and finished his final round at -1, 71. Ethan Frazier and Lewis Gruber had off weeks, as far as their better golf goes – but don't count these two talented players out. Lewis' game is really coming back to winning form; he just had a couple big number holes that cost him this week. Ethan's swing is looking very good but he had some big ups and downs this past week as well. Our other two players playing as individuals were Chase Seiffert who shot 82 – 75 and David Parlane, shooting 77 – 82. Check out all scores and results of the Preview at: <http://www.golfstat.com/2009-2010/men/mtourf109/M0050.htm>

Zach's fourth place finish earned him another exemption to next week's tournament, where the rest of the team will be scrambling for the other four traveling spots in a quick 36-hole qualifier this week.

Last year, the CACC Golf Team was also quite talented but we finished 11th at the Preview Tournament. Even after 3 wins we still had difficulty working our way back up in the polls. Our 2nd place finish should place us in the top-4 in the Nation which is just fine with me, at this point. Our goal is to be number 1 in late May of 2010.

See you next week,

Coach Dave Jennings