

Women's Golf Wins Grand Canyon Fall Invitational

September 26, 2006

For the women's golf team to top its fourth-place finish at last spring's National Championships, the 2006-2007 season would have to be one of the program's best ever. After the Grand Canyon Fall Invitational, there is legitimate reason to think it will be.

In their first tournament of the season, the Lady Cougars defeated the competition by a comfortable margin, capturing both the team and individual titles. The latter was thanks to senior Jennell French, who posted a two-round total of 146 (73 - 73) to win the event outright. French is expected to be a standout for the squad this year, and she could not have kicked off the season in a better way.

Other members of the Cougar team stepped up as well. Sophomore Ellyse Siu showed tremendous improvement over her freshman year, finishing in fourth with a two-round total of 150 (76 - 74). Senior Christina Austin finished in a tie for 12th, shooting 156 (79 - 77). Right behind her was Junior Carly Ludwig, with a total of 157 (80 - 77). Danielle Pearce also participated, shooting 175 (88 - 87).

After the first day of the event, the Lady Cougars held a small lead, posting a team score of 308. On day two, the squad secured the victory with a terrific score of 301. CSUSM's cumulative total of 609 was 11 shots clear of the rest of the field. Southern Nazarene took second with a score of 620, and St. Mary's took third, shooting 623.

Following the victory, Head Coach Fred Hanover was thrilled with the team's performance, but knows there may be even better performances ahead.

"They did fantastic," said Hanover. "But I don't think this is the best they can do. I think they'll be really special."

Women's Golf Takes 19th at Aztec Fall Classic; Ludwig Top Finisher

October 17, 2006

Competing in a field that featured some NCAA Division-I squads, the CSUSM women's golf team struggled at the Aztec Fall Classic, finishing 19th out of 19 teams. Carly Ludwig was the top Cougar finisher, taking 86th.

Coming off a win in its first competition of the fall, Tuesday's finish was a bit of a letdown for the team. On the difficult par-72 6,259-yard course at Chula Vista Golf Club, no Cougar was able to break 80 during the two rounds of competition.

Carly Ludwig led the squad in both rounds, shooting 83 on Monday followed by an 81 on Tuesday. Jennell French followed up a first-round 88 with an 82, good for second on the Cougars and 105th overall. Behind her were Danielle Pearce (84-87), Adriana Bowman (85-86), and Ellyse Siu (91-86).

The University of Denver, whose squad posted an impressive two-day team score of 582, won the event. BYU finished seven shots back for second, and U.C. Irvine took third with a score of 596. CSUSM's final score was 675.

Women's Golf Closes Out Fall Season With 11th-Place Finish; French Ties for 34th

November 7, 2006

Playing the final time this fall, the Cal State San Marcos women's golf team finished 11th out of 19 teams at the Firestone Grill-Cal Poly Invitational. Jennell French led the Cougars, tying for 34th.

On the difficult par-73 6,019-yard course, the Cougars didn't play spectacular golf, but were able to hold their own in the field nonetheless. The five-member squad shot 333 on day one, and followed that up with a 330 on day-two, for a two-round total of 663. U.C. Davis won the tournament with a score of 612.

For the Cougars, senior Jennell French finished off the fall season with a couple solid rounds of play. She posted a +9 (82) on day one, then bettered that by one shot the second day, for a final score of +17 (163). French, who won her first tournament of the fall, is expected to lead the Cougars come spring.

Ellyse Siu finished off a strong fall by tying for 44th, shooting +20 (166). Carly Ludwig got off to a great start on day one, posting a +4 (77), one of the best rounds of the tournament by any golfer. She fell back a bit on day two though, shooting +18 (91), and finishing in a tie for 51st.

Also competing for the Cougars were Christina Austin and Kathryn Hansen, with the latter playing in her first-ever tournament for the school. Both shot over 90 on day one, but they bounced back in day two, shooting 81 and 86, respectively. Austin finished in a tie for 70th, while Hanson tied for 74th.

Though the squad's performance wasn't as good as he hoped it would be, Coach Fred Hanover expects the team to be very strong in the spring.

"I'm hoping they'll work on their weaknesses in the next few months," he says. "We're still on track to have a good spring and Nationals."

Women's Golf Opens Season With Strong 5th-Place Finish

February 15, 2007

Competing against a field of almost exclusively Division I schools, the Cougar women's golf team more than held their own at the Lady Braveheart Challenge, tying for 5th in the 17-team field. Senior Jennell French led the way with a +17 (161), placing 18th.

San Diego State won the event, which was played on the Oak Valley Golf Club's par-72 6,080 yard course. The Aztecs shot a +45 (621) for the two-day event, ten shots ahead of second place U.C. Davis. The Cougars' +77 (653) tied them for fifth with Cal Poly, just one stroke back of the University of Portland.

For the Cougar women, the event can do nothing but build confidence. Coach Fred Hanover has a schedule filled with predominantly Division I tournaments, and the Cougars (who compete in the NAIA) showed in this event that they're up for the challenge.

French, who has been a major contributor to the squad since her freshman year, got off to a strong start to her season with the 18th place finish. Other Cougars were not far behind her though, as Carly Ludwig tied for 24th with a +18 (162) and Ellyse Siu tied for 28th with a +19 (163). Adriana Borman posted a +24 (168), tying her for 44th. Danielle Pearce and Christina Austin rounded out the squad, shooting +31 and +36, respectively.

Next up for the Cougar women is the squad's home event, the Cal State San Marcos Invitational, which is held at Lake San Marcos CC on February 18-20.

French Wins Rain-Shortened Cougar Invitational; Women's Golf Team Takes 6th

February 20, 2007

Wet conditions shortened the women's Cougar Invitational to one round, but CSUSM senior Jennell French didn't miss a beat, winning the event outright. The team didn't fare as well however, placing 6th in the 13-team field.

"The women weren't very good today," comments Head Coach Fred Hanover. "That said, we played just one round, so it's not the greatest barometer of what we can do."

Rough conditions prompted higher-than-usual scoring on the par-72 6,049-yard course at Lake San Marcos CC. Embry-Riddle handled the wet course best, and their score of +43 (331) was two shots clear of Southern Nazarene's +45 (333). Despite the Cougars' sixth-place finish, they were just five shots back of the winners.

But the Cougars' major bright spot was French. Ironically, the senior wasn't particularly pleased with her +6 (78), according to Coach Hanover, and was surprised it was the best on the day.

Still, Tuesday marked a major accomplishment for French - it was her third individual tournament title at CSUSM, which is a school record and a very rare feat at the college level. The fact that she believes she could have shot better is an indication of the high expectations she has for herself.

"We have a very difficult schedule remaining, but she could win again," remarks Hanover.

Unfortunately, no other Cougar broke the top-20 at their home tournament. Danielle Pearce came the closest, shooting +12 (84) to tie for 21st. Christina Austin's 85 was good for a tie for 28th, and Carly Ludwig (86) and Adriana Bowman (88) also finished in the top-40. Ellyse Siu (90) and Kathryn Hansen (98) rounded out the Cougars competing at the event.

Next up for the Lady Cougars is a tournament at Point Loma Nazarene on March 4-6.

Women's Golf Takes 11th at Peggy Kirk Bell Invitational

March 13, 2007

Competing against a strong field, the CSUSM women's golf team finished 11th at the Peggy Kirk Bell Invitational on Tuesday. Sophomore Ellyse Siu was the top Cougar finisher, placing 42nd.

The three-round event, which was hosted by Rollins College, took place across the country at Tusawilla Country Club in Winter Springs, Florida. CSUSM was a part of a strong field of 13 teams that took on the 6,089-yard par-72 course.

For the Cougars, Siu was the team's most consistent golfer over the course of the tournament. She started off with a first round +9 (81), and followed that up with rounds of 82 and 84. Her combined score of 247 was the best of any Cougar, and earned her 42nd place.

This marks the first tournament of the season that Jennell French hasn't been the top Cougar scorer. The senior got off to a rough start with a first-round 96, but recovered well, scoring 81 and 83 on the remaining two days. Her total score of 260 put her in 63rd place.

Other Cougars competing at the event were Carly Ludwig, Adriana Bowman, and Christina Austin. All three finished between 50th and 60th place in the field, shooting 252, 253, and 255, respectively. Like French, Bowman bounced back from a 90+ first round to have a strong tournament, shooting 81 in both rounds 2 and 3.

The event was won by host school Rollins College, who shot a total score of 910. They finished 13 strokes ahead of second-place Methodist University, while CSUSM shot an even 1,000 for the tourney.

Women's Golf Takes 14th at Anteater Invitational

March 28, 2007

Continuing their extremely difficult schedule, the Cougar women's golf team competed in the Anteater Invitational at UC Irvine this week. The squad finished in 14th place, with Carly Ludwig tying for 33rd to lead the team.

The three-round event featured a field of 15 teams, including Division I-A schools such as the University of Iowa and San Jose State, as well as others with strong programs. In fact, host school University of Irvine won the tournament, shooting a team score of +57 (909), 30 shots clear of second-place Sacramento State. The Cougars shot +165 (1017), four shots back of 13th-place Kennesaw State.

A Cougar squad that consisted of Carly Ludwig, Jennell French, Christina Austin, Adriana Borman, and Ellyse Siu faced the difficult par-71 5,924-yard course at Dove Canyon Country Club. Ludwig fared the best, shooting rounds of 84, 81, and 80 for a total score of +32 (245).

Finishing second on the squad was senior Jennell French, who tied for 58th. Like Ludwig, French steadily improved her score as the tournament went on, posting rounds of 85, 84, and 82. She shot +38 (251) overall.

Austin wasn't far behind, placing 65th with a +43 (256). One shot back was Borman, who shot +44 (257). Rounding out the squad was Ellyse Siu, who was the team's top finisher at their last tournament. She shot a +52 (265) to take 76th place this week.

Next up for the team is its final tournament before Regionals, the CSU Northridge Invitational on April 8th-10th.

Hansen Wins CSUN Spring Invitational; Women's Golf Team Takes 5th Place

April 10, 2007

In an awesome performance, junior Kathryn Hansen won the CSU Northridge Spring Invitational, besting a field of 39 golfers. The Cougar squad as a whole placed fifth out of the six participating teams.

Competing on the par-72 6,001-yard Tierra Rejada Golf Course, Hansen shot rounds of +4 (76) and +5 (77) to win the individual tournament title by two strokes. It is Hansen's first win in Cougar blue, and she joins Jennell French as CSUSM golfers who have won tournaments this spring. Hansen had only competed in one tournament this spring prior to this, where she finished tied for 62nd.

Hansen's performance gives the squad a big boost as it heads into Regionals, and, eventually, Nationals. If she can come through with this kind of effort in those tournaments, that bodes very well for the Cougar team as a whole.

Other Cougars who fared well at the CSUN Invitational included Danielle Pearce, who finished in a tie for 19th. Pearce shot a first round 86, but rebounded very well with a 79 in round 2.

Christina Austin and Jennell French both shot total scores of +25 (169), tying them for 25th. Austin recovered from an 89 on day one to shoot 80 on day two, while French shot rounds of 82 and 87.

Not far behind were Carly Ludwig, Ellyse Siu, and Adriana Borman. Ludwig tied for 29th with a +27 (171); Siu tied for 31st with a +29 (173); and Borman shot +30 (174) to place 33rd.

The team title was won by the University of Portland, whose total team score of +56 (632) was 6 shots clear of host school Cal State Northridge. CSUSM finished with a +82 (658).

With the "regular season" over with, the team will next take the course on April 22-24 at Regionals.

Women's Golf Team Dominates Regionals; French and Siu Tie for 1st

April 25, 2007

Though the complete results are not available at this time, the Cal State San Marcos women's golf team has won the Region II Championship for the second consecutive year. Cougars Ellyse Siu and Jennell French tied for first place, with the latter winning the tournament in a playoff.

The two-round tournament, played at Palm Desert Country Club, was dominated by the Cougars. As a team, the squad shot a first-day 316 and backed it up with a 317 on day two, for a total score of 633.

For French, the win marks her fourth individual tournament title in Cougar blue, adding to her school record. She got off to a great start with a +3 (75), and shot a +7 (79) on day two. That was just enough to force a playoff with teammate Ellyse Siu, who was third on the team after round one with an 80, then proceeded to stage a major day two comeback with a sparkling +2 (74). The tie for first is Siu's best finish as a Cougar.

While the top two get the spotlight, the other Cougar golfers had solid performances as well. Carly Ludwig finished just four shots behind the leaders, shooting a two-day score of +14 (158). Kathryn Hansen, who won the team's last tournament, shot a pair of 84's for a total of +24 (168). And two shots behind her was Christina Austin, who shot +26 (170)

Coach Hanover seems to have his team peaking at the right time, and they're carrying a lot of momentum going into Nationals. Given that the event is going to be held on the Cougars' home course (Lake San Marcos C.C.), and that three CSUSM golfers have now finished first at a tournament this season, CSUSM is poised to potentially top its school-best fourth-place finish from 2006.

The National Championships will be held on May 14th-18th. For more information, check the links on the Athletics home page.

Cougars Close Out Women's Golf Nationals in 9th Place

May 18, 2007

A successful 2007 NAIA Women's Golf National Championship concluded in San Marcos on Friday, and once again Oklahoma City was the last team standing, winning by a comfortable 18 shots over Lindsey Wilson College. Cal State San Marcos finished in 9th, the spot they've held since day two.

For the Cougars, the story of the tournament was the emergence of Ellyse Siu. The sophomore, who hails from Nevada, has made tremendous strides in her two years in Cougar blue. On Friday, despite shooting her worst round of the tournament, a +9 (81), she still finished in a team-best tie for 11th place in the field of 120 golfers with a four-round total of +25 (313). Last year, Siu tied for 68th at Nationals.

But while Ellyse Siu was CSUSM's story of the tournament, Jennell French was the story of day four. The senior, who ends her career having won a school-record four individual tournament titles, entered this week in search of her fifth. Though that hope was ended early on, French reminded everyone on Friday why she is the most successful golfer in CSUSM history. She shot a sparkling +3 (75), the best round of the tournament for any Cougar, and closed out the event in a tie for 21st, just four strokes behind Siu overall.

Junior Carly Ludwig finished third on the team, tying for 48th with a total of +38 (326). Ludwig's terrific first-round 76 kept CSUSM in the tournament early on, but closed out the competition with a disappointing +12 (84). Christina Austin and Kate Hansen finished in a tie for 88th, with a total of +58 (346). For Austin, a senior, the 2007 Nationals marks her final tournament in Cougar blue as well.

CSUSM finished with a four-day team score of +140 (1292), three shots behind William Woods College. Oklahoma City's winning mark was +85 (1237). In the individual competition, Krista Burton from Lindsey Wilson College held off all challengers, winning with a total of +7 (295). Bethel's Shanna Page finished second, four shots behind.

Though the 9th-place finish wasn't as high as the team hoped for going in, it's hard to argue that a top-10 finish nationally isn't a good thing. With the 2008 Nationals also taking place at Lake San Marcos, expect the squad to begin preparing for that event sooner rather than later.