

# Women take seventh at tournament

BY JOE BARKER  
Sports Editor

The women's golf team is a second-day squad.

After the first day of the Kenneth Smith Tournament, the Bulldogs sat in eighth place, nine strokes behind tournament host University of Missouri-Kansas City. The team had shot an opening round 336 — above its goal of a round in the 320s.

But the women cut down the swings on Day 2 to move up in the standings to a tie for seventh in the 10-team field. The Bulldogs cut 15

strokes off their Day 1 total, narrowly missing their target round by shooting a 321.

"The first day we played kind of average," head coach Sam Lesseig said. "The second day we played much better. ... We still need to get more consistent from day-to-day. Hopefully they are starting to realize that they have a lot more potential than they think they do."

The second-day improvement was the fourth time in six tournaments the women had improved after the opening round.

"I don't think there is any specific reason," sophomore Krystal

Limsiaco said. "Sometimes we just play better the next day, and sometimes we don't."

For the first time this fall, the Bulldogs didn't have a clear-cut No. 1 finisher. Limsiaco and freshman Kaytie Spangler shot identical 159s to place them in a tie for 13th.

Limsiaco and Spangler reached their matching scores in very different ways. Spangler had a consistent showing on both days carding an 80 on the first day and a 79 on Day 2.

Spangler said she had been working on her game around the green prior to the tourna-

ment. The work paid off.

"I felt like I played pretty well," Spangler said. "The first day my short game was really, really good. I didn't hit many greens, but I still saved par a lot. On the second day I hit more greens."

Limsiaco carded her 159 in a different fashion. The sophomore dropped seven strokes from her opening round 83 to shoot a team-low 76 the second day.

"I just fixed a little kink in my swing, and I just worked on my putting," Limsiaco said. "It was just little mistakes that I was making that I had to fix."

It was the fourth time this fall that Limsiaco has been the low scorer for the Bulldogs.

Of the 10 teams, seven were Div. I schools and three from Div. II. The Bulldogs managed to beat both Div. II schools and passed UMKC on Day 2 to knock off one of the Div. I teams.

"My expectations coming in were to be the top Div. II and hopefully beat one, maybe two of the Div. Is," Lesseig said. "But we only got one of them."

The tournament concluded the fall season for the women. Before they tee up again in the

spring, the golfers will work during the offseason in hopes of repeating last spring's trip to the Div. II national tournament.

Lesseig said each member of the team will work on a variety of things — mostly off the course because the cold weather makes playing golf difficult.

Spangler said she plans to spend time in the weight room.

"I'm going to try and get a little bit stronger," she said. "I just want to stay in shape. In high school I never played this long of a season so anything I do is going to be better than it was before."

## Athlete of the Week

### Isabel Gaeta

Sport: Soccer

Year: Sophomore

Position: Forward

Hometown:

Naperville, Ill.

Isabel Gaeta netted two goals in Friday's 3-0 win against Emporia State University. The sophomore now is tied for the team lead in goals with five on the season. Gaeta has scored four goals in her last four games — all while coming off the bench. Last season Gaeta scored two goals in 17 contests.

## Gaeta's goals give Bulldogs a boost

BY SHAWN SHINNEMAN  
Staff Reporter

Sophomore forward Isabel Gaeta is making it hard on head coach Mike Cannon.

Gaeta scored two goals against Emporia State University, helping the Bulldogs defeat the Hornets 3-0 Friday. Gaeta has four goals and one assist in the past four games. She is fighting to regain the starting spot she had the first two games of the season.

"She's pushing to get back into the starting lineup," head coach Mike Cannon said. "She started the first couple games of the year, and she was playing pretty well, [but] some people were playing a little bit better. And now it's like she's starting to put the ball in the net again. ... We haven't decided for sure, but she's making it hard to keep her off the field."

Gaeta is part of a six-person rotation at forward that has the Bulldogs on pace for 40 regular-season goals — the most since 2004.

But Gaeta hasn't started a game since Aug. 26. In that game, the second of the season, junior Katelyn Talcott had a goal and an assist. Talcott has started all 13 games since, amassing three goals and four assists on the year.

Coming off the bench most of the year, Gaeta's numbers stack up against Talcott's. Gaeta is tied for most goals on the team with five and has two assists to go with them.

Gaeta said not having a starting spot has only increased her desire to get better.

"It pushes me to work harder," Gaeta said. "When I get on the field and when I do get playing time, [it pushes me] to make a difference and help out the team."

Although Gaeta admitted she isn't the fastest player on the field, Cannon said she does other things well.

"She is probably one of our more creative players," Cannon said. "She likes to have the ball at her feet. She likes to take people on [and] make things happen."

Gaeta's skills were on display in the first half Friday when she received a pass from senior Rachael Schmidt from about 40 yards out. Gaeta held off a defender until she was close enough to put a shot past Emporia's goalkeeper for the 1-0 lead.

In the second half, Gaeta put herself in good position to finish a cross from sophomore Kristin Haluszczak and capitalized on the opportunity for her second goal of the game.

Gaeta has found success at forward this year after playing midfield most of last season and her numbers have affected the team's success. The Bulldogs are 6-0-0 this year in games that the Naperville, Ill., native has recorded either a goal or an assist.

As the 'Dogs continue their push toward the postseason, Gaeta could become even more involved in a high-powered Bulldog offense that averages two goals per game. She has accumulated the second-most shots on goal while achieving a 0.192 shooting percentage — third on the team among players with at least 10 shots.

Cannon said that although Gaeta has impressed, there always is room to improve.

"She's got a lot of talent," Cannon said. "We are trying to get her to use it at the right times and within how the game is going to be more effective. But she is figuring that stuff out, which is great."



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