

New golf pro hits local country club **Clint Fitzpatrick**

All eyes on

“You are still outside and not stuck at your desk all day, that’s the appeal of being a golf pro.”

BY CASSANDRA MCCARTY
Assistant Features Editor

Golf pro Clint Fitzpatrick is the newest addition to the Kirksville Country Club.

Fitzpatrick was inspired to take up the game by his father, who also is a PGA professional and played on the tour before Fitzpatrick was born. Fitzpatrick said he grew up on the golf course, which influenced his decision about what he wanted to do with his life.

Fitzpatrick is three weeks into his position as the head pro at the local club, and said he originally was drawn to the Kirksville community and the job opportunity at the country club because his fiancé is from the area, and it seemed like the perfect place to raise a family. Fitzpatrick attended Farris State University in Big Rapids, Mich., where he spent his time working toward a Bachelor’s degree in marketing while studying to become a certified PGA professional. He said that to become PGA certified, a golfer must pass a series of tests. At the beginning of the process, individuals demonstrate their capabilities on the golf course, and if they shoot a certain score, they can continue with the certification. Each level ends when the prospective member travels to the PGA center to take a test.

“It’s not just playing,” Fitzpatrick said. “A lot of it is business, rules of golf, club repair, lessons. At the end of that year you have to go to Florida where the PGA center is located, and you have to get tested. So everything that you have learned, they have put it into a big written test.”

As the head pro at the Kirksville Country Club, Fitzpatrick has a variety of duties to perform such as overseeing the golf pro shop sales in the club, giving lessons to members and non-members and dealing with the tournaments and club memberships.

Fitzpatrick has only been a part of Kirksville’s golf community for a matter of weeks. He said that because of the club’s success in the past, he does not want to change anything about the club or the course.

“There is nothing I want to change right now, especially since it’s my first year,” Fitzpatrick said. “I just want to come in and try to get a feel for things, see how it’s been. Because it has been so successful the past couple of years, I would hate to try to change it too much.”

Fitzpatrick said he has been able to build many relationships with the club regulars.

“You see the same people every day,” Fitzpatrick said. “You know which groups are going to come out. It’s nice — it’s nice to build a relationship with the members.”

“You see the same people every day. You know which groups are going to come out. It’s nice — it’s nice to build a relationship with the members.”

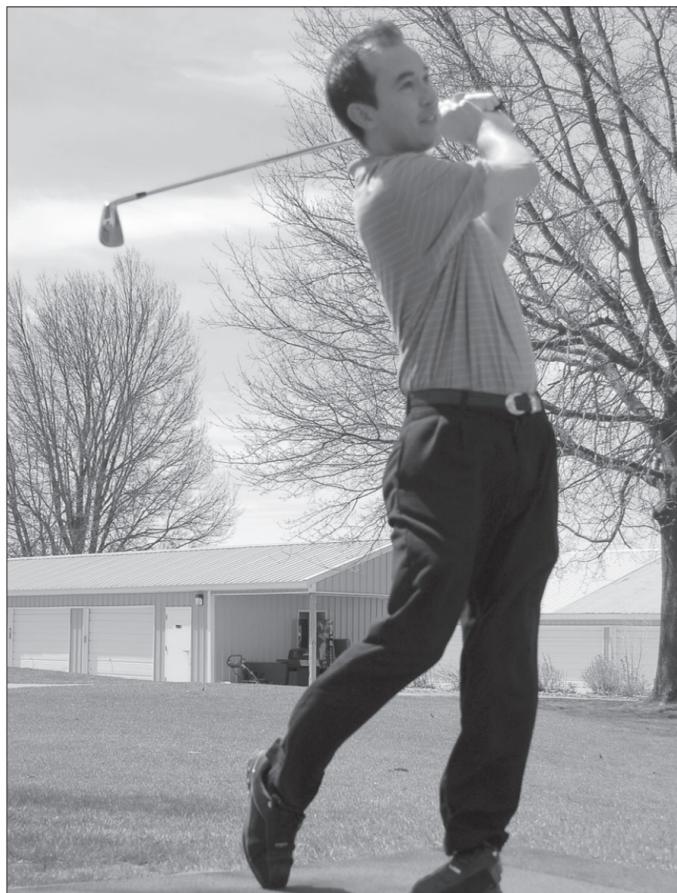
Clint Fitzpatrick
Head Pro, Kirksville
Country Club

In addition to Fitzpatrick’s newly formed friendships with several Kirksville residents, he enjoys the atmosphere of the course, especially the one surrounding the club’s signature 18th hole.

“They call it the signature hole because anytime they take a picture ... or anytime they have a chance to show off the golf course, 18 is our signature hole,” Fitzpatrick said. “There is a lake out there and [Kirksville Country Club] is built in. Every golf course has a signature hole, and ours is 18. I like it because there is a deck right out here, and people can sit out there and watch other people and give them a hard time.”

Although he said he still wants to be a golf superstar, his long term goal is to stay in Kirksville and keep the club growing.

“You are still outside and not stuck at your desk all day, that’s the appeal of being a golf pro,” Fitzpatrick said. “... You will spend some of your day out on the driving range giving a lesson, some of it playing, so it’s never routine. There is something different every day.”



Krista Goodman/Index
Clint Fitzpatrick is the new pro at the Kirksville Country Club. Fitzpatrick said his father was also a club pro and inspired him to do the same.

Students dance backup for Russian pop star

BY STEPHANIE HALL
Features Editor

From ballet to Russian pop, Truman students flexed their dancing abilities last Friday.

A total of eight students, seven women and one man, performed as backup dancers with The Oskar, the Russian pop star who performed at Wrongdaddy’s last weekend.

Sophomore Anne-Elise Biaoito, one of The Oskar’s backup dancers, said the most difficult part was choreographing dances without The Oskar.

“We didn’t really know what he wanted,” Biaoito said. “We wanted him to give us ideas but getting a hold of him was kind of hard.”

The group practiced for two weeks with a sample CD of The Oskar’s music in preparation for the event, she said. Each of the dancers picked a song off the track list and choreographed a dance to it, Biaoito said. Two days before the concert The Oskar arrived and showed the dancers his own personal style, Biaoito said.

“He’s super humble, he’s not like, ‘You guys are just like hick townies or whatever,’ and he’s willing to go over the moves over and over until we got it,” Biaoito said.

Biaoito said they learned all the dances in the two days before the performance. She said the dances weren’t difficult, but they had a lot of footwork.

“He’s a really good dancer, crazy, his style of dancing isn’t traditional hip hop or break dance ... he just does his own thing,” Biaoito said. “He [dances] kind of like what you would do on a bar in a club.”



Photo submitted
Eight Truman students danced backup for The Oskar at his concert Friday. For one of the dances, they dressed up as famous people such as Britney Spears and Audrey Hepburn.

Although The Oskar has professional backup dancers, he chose to have dancers from Kirksville perform in the show Friday.

“I thought that it would be fun to interact with people who live

here and to make it bigger than just a regular concert,” The Oskar said. “I mean, my shows are not just regular concerts anyway, but I [thought] it would just be fun to interact with the youngsters who

go to school here.”

He said he was impressed with the amount of work the dancers put into the choreography. Like the dancers, The Oskar said he was very nervous about the performance.

“Because it’s a completely new world and new thing,” The Oskar said. “... It doesn’t matter where you perform but to just take people on an emotional journey.”

Junior Rebekah Burke, like many of the other backup dancers, came from a dance background that did not include Russian pop. Burke danced classical ballet for 15 years, but said she jumped at the chance to be a backup dancer for The Oskar.

“I mean, it gets you out of your medium a little, [and] it broadens your movement vocabulary as a dancer,” Burke said.

Burke said The Oskar emphasized freestyling on stage — a detail to which she was unaccustomed.

“[It’s] really more about attitude than it is about movement,” Burke said. “... It’s intimidating for sure.”

The Oskar performed 12 songs Friday — some of which were in Russian — which turned out to be helpful for Burke, who said she enjoyed dancing to the Russian songs.

“When it’s Russian you can kind of do whatever the heck you want, and it makes choreographing a lot easier,” Burke said. “I don’t know, you can kind of create your own story with the song as opposed to going with the story that is already there.”

Burke said she thinks the concert was an incredible opportunity for Truman students.

“I think that’s what’s really great about Truman ... even though we are a really small campus, it still it feels like a big campus,” Burke said.

Read the Index the **easy** way

www.trumanindex.com

- Breaking News
- Web Polls
- Additional stories



- E-mail stories
- Access archive
- Post Comments

... all accessible from the comfort of your room