

Women win final fall invite

Lawson, Kovach win first tournaments of Bulldog careers

BY SONDRA LANGLEY
Staff Reporter

The final fall tournament of the season was one that the women's golf team was happy about.

The Bulldogs took the title with a two-day total of 658 Oct. 15 to 16 at the Avila University Invitational in Kansas City.

"The Avila tournament went pretty well," sophomore Jessica Kraus said. "As a team we won, which was awesome, especially since it was our last fall tournament."

Junior Jen Lawson finished first for the first time in her collegiate career. Lawson finished

with a 155, one shot ahead of the second-place finisher from Park University. Senior Krystal Limsiaco placed third with 159 strokes, her third top-three finish this fall.

"It's sad knowing that I am almost at the end, and this is definitely my last fall season ever," Limsiaco said. "It is more sad thinking about leaving the team and the camaraderie that we have than the tournaments."

The Bulldogs feel confident going into conference play and the spring season after their strong finish in Kansas City.

"It would have been nicer to have had more competition and more people from our conference there," Limsiaco said.

Sophomore Liz Lestmann tied for fifth with 166 strokes, followed by Kraus in 11th with 174 strokes, senior Erin Semple in

13th and freshman Jessica Tomash in 15th.

"I had a rough start to the tournament," Kraus said. "I started out pretty well, but unfortunately I had a couple holes that didn't go so well. The second day everything seemed to be connected. I was putting extremely well, and if it wasn't for a couple of holes I would have shot even lower."

Kraus said she hopes the successful fall will be a precursor to the spring.

"We have a lot of talent on our team, and I feel that if we're all playing well then we're unstoppable," Kraus said. "I hope that we can get everything together for the spring season and be just as good."

Limsiaco said she feels good about the strength of the team, and that the next weeks of practice

will bring the team closer and stronger for the spring.

"We have until March to work on things, and I think it is going to be, or I am hoping it to be the strongest season yet," Limsiaco said.

The men took an abbreviated team Oct. 10 to 11 to the Maryville University Fall Invitational.

Only junior Chris Kovach and freshman Eric Laugeman competed for the 'Dogs at the invitational.

"[Co-head coach Jim Berrey] figured since most of the top players couldn't go, and Eric was from St. Louis, and my family was coming to watch, to send us," Kovach said.

Kovach won the tournament, a collegiate first, with an even-par two-day total of 142 strokes. After the second day of play, Kovach was

three strokes ahead of the second-place finisher from Rockhurst.

"It worked out pretty well," Kovach said. "I had played there lots of times when I was younger so I was comfortable with the course."

Laugeman finished 50th with a two-day total of 178 strokes. Kovach said Berrey understood that the men were behind on school work already, and since mid-terms were that week, he sent only those comfortable with the course.

The Bulldogs end their fall season with hopes for improvement in the spring.

"We need to make an improvement because I know we didn't play our potential this fall, and we definitely need to pick it up if we want to have a chance to get up in the conference," Kovach said.



Blake Toppmeyer/Index
Junior Jen Lawson took home first place individual honors at the Oct. 15 to 16 Avila Invitational in Kansas City.

Lawson wins final invite of fall

BY CORY WEEKES
Staff Reporter

Junior women's golfer Jen Lawson earned her first outright tournament win last weekend. She prevailed by one stroke.

As the women's golf team came to the end of their fall season, Lawson has been among the brightest stars on the team. Lawson placed in the top four in five of the last six tournaments.

In the fall season closer, the Avila University Invitational, Lawson edged out Park University's Plern Promboobpa, who head coach Sam Lesseig said was a tough opponent. This not only resulted in her first overall win, but also aided in helping the Bulldogs take first place overall by more than 11 strokes. It was the team's third first-place finish this fall.

Lawson shot 79, 76 for her second-best score of the fall and plans to build on this momentum in the spring season.

"I'm really happy that I got my first outright win," Lawson said. "I worked really hard last spring and summer,

and that work has paid off."

Lawson averaged 80 strokes per round this fall, compared to 84.8 last season.

"Although it can still be a problem, my game management has been the biggest difference I've noticed since last season," Lawson said. "I have just been making a lot more smart decisions and focusing on the little things in order to keep my numbers down. I have seen my amount of double and triple bogeys really diminish over the course of the fall season."

While she has done a lot of work during the past few months, Lawson attributes most of her success to a very simple source.

"Experience is huge," Lawson said. "Now when I get nervous, it's not that bad because I know I've been there before and I now know what I am capable of. I have been able to control where my shots go, as opposed to previous years where I would step up to the tee and not really know where the ball would land."

Lawson is optimistic about the upcoming spring season, which has more events that count toward re-

gionals than the fall does.

"I'm super excited for next spring," Lawson said. "This is the best team we have ever put together since I've been here. We still have a lot of room to improve but as long as everybody is getting to the weight room and driving range over the winter, I know we will be good."

Not much separates Lawson from the other girls on the team, head coach Sam Lesseig said. He did, however, say that she has been doing some things very well as of late, and they have helped her to be as successful as she's been.

"She has good distance and is hitting the ball very solid right now," Lesseig said. "Her confidence has gone way up, and she now feels like she can hit the ball where she wants in most scenarios."

Going into the last tournament of the fall, Lesseig said no strategy was in place.

"She just needed to keep the ball in play and take advantage of opportunities when they presented themselves," Lesseig said. "She has good length and played a lot of golf this summer, and it has paid off in a big way."

Athlete of the Week

Jen Lawson
Sport: Women's golf
Year: junior
Hometown: Mahomet, Ill.

Junior Jen Lawson won her first career tournament last weekend at the Avila Invitational in Kansas City. Lawson shot 79, 76. Her play helped lead the Bulldogs to the team title by 11 strokes. Lawson has improved her average by 4.8 strokes this year.

Skilled cardiology care from a Chest Pain Accredited hospital.

Introducing Northeast Regional Medical Center's newest cardiologist, Dr. Joshua Valtos. With the full-time coverage of a skilled cardiologist and the re-accreditation of Northeast as a Chest Pain Center, we take special care of the hearts in our hometown. For a referral see your primary care physician. To learn more about our emergency cardiac care and Chest Pain Accreditation, visit www.nermc.com today.

Joshua Valtos, M.D.
Missouri Heart Center
800 W. Jefferson • Kirksville
660.626.2525

Dr. Valtos is the newest member of the Northeast Regional Medical Center cardiac team.