

NEBRASKA

WOMEN'S GOLF

GOLFWEK CONFERENCE CHALLENGE - SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2019

N 2019-20 SCHEDULE

FALL 2019

Sept. 9-10	Branch Law Firm/Dick McGuire Invite Albuquerque, N.M. (299-299-294-892)	11th/15
Sept. 23-25	Golfweek Conference Challenge Wolcott, Colo. (Red Sky GC)	11 a.m.
Oct. 8-9	Edean Ihanfeldt Invitational Sammamish, Wash. (Sahalee GC)	10 a.m.
Nov. 1-3	Battle at the Beach San Jose Del Cabo, Mexico (Club Campestre)	10 a.m.

SPRING 2020

Feb. 9-11	Lady Puerto Rico Classic Rio Grande, P.R. (Rio Mar GC)	7 a.m.
Feb. 23-24	Westbrook Spring Invitational Peoria, Ariz. (Westbrook Village GC)	10 a.m.
March 13-15	Clover Cup Mesa, Ariz. (Longbow GC)	10 a.m.
March 23-25	Anuenue Spring Break Classic Kapalua Maui, Hawaii (Kapalua Bay GC)	11 a.m.
March 30-31	The Bruzzy Challenge Argyle, Texas (Lantana GC)	9 a.m.
April 24-26	Big Ten Championship Maineville, Ohio (TPC River's Bend GC)	7:30 a.m.
May 11-13	NCAA Regionals Georgia, Notre Dame Washington State, NC State	TBA
May 22-27	NCAA Championships Scottsdale, Ariz. (Grayhawk GC)	TBA

N NEBRASKA ROSTER

Student-Athlete	Class	Hometown (High School/Other)
Noor Ahmed**	Jr.	Folsom, Calif. (Vista del Lago)
Kirsten Baete*	So.	Beatrice, Neb. (Beatrice)
Vanessa Bouvet*	So.	Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei
Nicole Hansen	RFr.	Bloomington, Ill. (Lake Park)
Jessica Haraden**	Sr.	Thousand Oaks, Calif. (Oaks Christian)
Leah Herzog	Fr.	Red Wing, Minn. (Red Wing)
Kate Smith***	Sr.	Detroit Lakes, Minn. (Detroit Lakes)
Haley Thiele***	Sr.	Wahoo, Neb. (Bishop Neumann)
Hannah Thiele**	Jr.	Wahoo, Neb. (Bishop Neumann)
Megan Whittaker*	So.	Elkhorn, Neb. (Elkhorn South)

*denotes letters earned at Nebraska

N HUSKER QUICK FACTS

Head Coach	Lisa Johnson (Gonzaga, 2000)
Associate Head Coach	Chessey Thomas (Tennessee, 2014)
Golf Secretary	Rose Sousek
Golf Office Phone	(402) 472-1415
2018-19 Top 10 Finishes	6/10
2019-19 Top Five Finishes	3/10
2019-19 Tournament Titles	1 (Westbrook)
Big Ten Conference	Ninth Season
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	8/0
Athletic Communications Contact	Jeff Griesch
Office Phone	(402) 472-7775
Cell Phone	(402) 540-0279
E-mail	jpgriesch@huskers.com
Facebook	Nebraska Women's Golf
Twitter	@huskerwgf

HUSKERS CONTINUE FALL CAMPAIGN AT CONFERENCE CHALLENGE

The Nebraska women's golf team returns to action next week by traveling to Colorado to compete in the Golfweek Conference Challenge, Sept. 23-25.

The three-day event at the Red Sky Golf Club in Wolcott, Colo., features 18 teams from 18 conferences around the nation. Nebraska will represent the Big Ten, while NC State (ACC), Ole Miss (SEC), TCU (Big 12) and UCLA (Pac-12) represent the other Power Five conferences. Nebraska will be facing Pepperdine, Ole Miss and San Diego State for the second time on the young season. Pepperdine won the tournament title at NU's season-opening Branch Law Firm/Dick McGuire Invitational in Albuquerque (Sept. 9-10), while Ole Miss took third and San Diego State finished fifth.

Nebraska will tee off in Colorado on Monday at 11 a.m. (CT), followed by Tuesday's second round at 11 a.m. The tournament's final round is set for a shotgun start on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Live scoring will be available at GolfStat.com.

Kate Smith led the Huskers in New Mexico by tying for eighth place individually with a three-under-par total of 213 (71-72-70) over 54 holes. The senior from Detroit Lakes, Minn., notched her 14th career top-10 finish. Megan Whittaker added the best three-round tournament total of her collegiate career with a 225 (74-76-75). The sophomore from Elkhorn, Neb., finished in a tie for 45th, while senior Haley Thiele (Wahoo, Neb.) added a 226 to tie for 51st. True freshman Leah Herzog (Red Wing, Minn.) opened her career with a solid 228 (77-76-75) with all three of her rounds counting toward NU's team score.

HUSKERS MAKE FREQUENT TRIPS TO CONFERENCE CHALLENGE

The Huskers will be making their fourth trip in the last seven years to the Golfweek Conference Challenge. Last season, Nebraska took 11th in the 18-team field with an 899 on the Fazio Course at the Red Sky Golf Club.

Haley Thiele led the Huskers by tying for 21st (219) last season, including a final-round 69. Thiele also competed at the Conference Challenge as a freshman in 2015-16, tying for 60th (235).

The Big Red also finished 11th in a 17-team field in the fall of 2015, after finishing a program-best ninth in a 17-team field in 2014.

Nebraska made its first appearance at the Golfweek Conference Challenge with a 15th-place finish in an 18-team field in the fall of 2012.

NU LINEUP FILLED WITH EXPERIENCE, FEATURES ONE FRESH FACE

The five-player Nebraska lineup for the Golfweek Conference Challenge features a pair of seniors among four returners to the Husker lineup and one true freshman.

Fifth-year senior Haley Thiele (Wahoo, Neb.) and senior Kate Smith (Detroit Lakes, Minn.) are joined by junior Noor Ahmed (Folsom, Calif.) and sophomore Megan Whittaker (Elkhorn, Neb.) who were both regulars in the Husker lineup last season.

Ahmed was one of Nebraska's top players in the spring and fall of 2018, before struggling last spring. She will be making her first lineup appearance this season.

Whittaker showed continual improvement throughout her freshman season and posted a 77.81 stroke average. She also matched Smith for

GOLFWEK CONFERENCE CHALLENGE

Location	Wolcott, Colorado
Host	Golfweek
Course	Red Sky Golf Club (Fazio Course)
Monday, Sept. 23 (Tee Times)	11 a.m. (CT)
Tuesday, Sept. 24 (Tee Times)	11 a.m. (CT)
Wednesday, Sept. 25 (Shotgun)	10:30 a.m. (CT)
Live Scoring:	GolfStat.com

Participating Teams (18)

NC State (ACC)	SMU (American)
Kennesaw State (A-Sun)	TCU (Big 12)
Xavier (Big East)	Sacramento St. (Big Sky)
Campbell (Big South)	Nebraska (Big Ten)
UC Riverside (Big West)	Delaware (Colonial)
San Diego State (MWC)	UCLA (Pac-12)
Ole Miss (SEC)	East Tenn. St. (SoCon)
Central Arkansas (Southland)	Denver (Summit)
South Alabama (Sun Belt)	Pepperdine (WCC)

NEBRASKA LINEUP

1. Kate Smith	2. Megan Whittaker
3. Haley Thiele	4. Noor Ahmed
5. Leah Herzog	IND - Jessica Haraden

Nebraska's top finish at the Big Ten Championship by tying for 51st, including an opening-round 75.

The four experienced Huskers are being joined by freshman Leah Herzog (Red Wing, Minn.), who earned her second straight lineup appearance to open her career.

Herzog was named Minnesota Ms. Golf in May before leading Red Wing to a Class 2A state team title. She posted a 69.4 scoring average as a high school senior and finished as the Class 2A individual runner-up. She was a four-time all-state selection.

GOLF WEEK CONFERENCE CHALLENGE, SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2019

SMITH SHOOTS FOR ANOTHER RECORD-SETTING SEASON

Senior Kate Smith will take aim at her best season yet, as she opens the 2019-20 campaign. A three-year starter in the Husker lineup, Smith has played 90 rounds and owns a Nebraska-record 73.61 career stroke average. She opened her senior season with a 71.00 average through three rounds at the Branch Law Firm/Dick McGuire Invitational (Sept. 9-10).

Last season, Smith's 73.52 stroke average was a school record. In 2016-17, Smith set the Nebraska freshman record with a 73.90 stroke average while earning a spot in the 2017 NCAA Regional field.

She finished 2018-19 No. 223 in the GolfStat player rankings and owns 21 career top-25 individual tournament finishes, including 14 top-10 showings. She has also won three career Big Ten Golfer-of-the-Week awards.

In 2017-18, Smith smashed a school record with her 14-under-par 202 at the 2018 Westbrook Spring Invitational (Feb. 25-26). She added the second-best tournament in school history with her 208 (-8) at the 2019 Westbrook Spring Invitational (Feb. 24-25) to finish as the runner-up.

She has fired 26 rounds better than par in her career, including a school-record 64 (-8) in the second round of the 2018 Westbrook Invite.

HALEY THIELE SWINGING FOR BEST SEASON AS FIFTH-YEAR SENIOR

Haley Thiele competed in all 27 rounds in the Nebraska lineup in 2018-19, after two seasons of battling injuries. Thiele redshirted in 2016-17, and suffered the lingering effects of a wrist injury in 2017-18.

During the summer of 2018, Thiele made significant adjustments to her swing and began seeing the fruits of her labor as a junior last season, when she finished with a 76.93 stroke average.

Thiele helped the Huskers to a tournament title at Westbrook with a season-best 68 (-4) in the second round, after shooting an even-par 72 in the opening round. She finished in a tie for 35th with a season-best 218 for the tournament.

Thiele produced one of the best freshman seasons in Nebraska history in 2015-16, notching a then-freshman school-record 75.63 stroke average. She also closed her rookie year as NU's No. 2 finisher at the Big Ten Championships in 39th place.

Thiele tied the Husker freshman record with a five-under-par 67 at the Las Vegas Collegiate Showdown while matching first-team All-American Sarah Sasse's then-overall NU record with a 54-hole score of 209.

Thiele owns a 76.97 stroke average over 88 career rounds for the Huskers, including 75.33 through the first three rounds of 2019-20.

2019 FRESHMEN LOOKING TO SHINE AS SOPHOMORES FOR BIG RED

Vanessa Bouvet, Kirsten Baete and Megan Whittaker all made significant impacts on the Nebraska lineup as freshmen in 2018-19.

Bouvet produced Nebraska's No. 2 stroke average on the season and one of the best averages by a freshman in school history (75.79) while competing in 24 rounds for the Huskers.

Bouvet (Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei) produced possibly the best performance by a Husker freshman in a career-opening event with her two-under-par 214 to tie for third individually in the 75-player field at the Ptarmigan Ram Fall Classic.

Bouvet's second-round 68 tied for the third-best round ever by a Nebraska freshman. She closed the fall with a tie for second in the rain-shortened Rainbow Wahine Invitational, Oct. 31.

Another powerful young player, Baete produced one of the best tournaments by a freshman in school history with her 210 (-6) in helping the Huskers win the Westbrook Spring Invitational (Feb. 24-25). Baete (Beatrice, Neb.) notched her first career top-25 finish by tying for fifth in a loaded field. Her second-round 66 was the best round by a freshman in school history.

She added a tie for 29th (229) at the Lady Buckeye Invitational (April 13-14) after tying for 30th with a 229 at the Clover Cup (March 15-17). Her 77.00 stroke average ranked fifth on the team last season, and she joined Kate Smith and Haley Thiele as the only Huskers to compete in all 27 rounds on the year.

Megan Whittaker came on strong throughout the spring of 2019 and finished with NU's No. 6 stroke average (77.81) on the season. She made her first career lineup appearance at the Lady Buckeye Invitational (April 13-14) before matching Nebraska's top finish (T51st) at the Big Ten Championship.

She was Nebraska's top qualifier for the 2019-20 season-opening Branch Law Firm/Dick McGuire Invitational, where she finished second among the Huskers with a career-best 225 over three rounds.

AHMED, SMITH FACES OF THE BIG TEN

Noor Ahmed gained national exposure when she was featured by the Golf Channel for her courage while encountering discrimination. Ahmed is the first NCAA Division I golfer to compete while wearing a hijab - the traditional head covering worn in public by Muslim women.

Ahmed and Husker teammate Kate Smith were featured together in the Golf Channel piece, and the good friends were featured among the Faces of the Big Ten created by the Big Ten Network in 2018-19. That feature will continue to air across the network in 2019-20.

Ahmed, who has since been featured by several national and international magazines, finished 2018-19 with Nebraska's No. 3 overall stroke average (76.56), while competing in 25 rounds. She produced the best finish of her career by tying for ninth at the Lady Puerto Rico Classic to open the 2019 spring season.

SMITH, HERZOG CONTINUE MINNESOTA CONNECTION

Kate Smith, a senior from Detroit Lakes, and Leah Herzog, a freshman from Red Wing, continue an outstanding tradition of top golfers from the state of Minnesota playing at Nebraska. Smith, who set Nebraska's single-season stroke average record (73.52) for the third straight year in 2019, also qualified for the 2017 NCAA Central Regional. Smith enters her final season at Nebraska with a school-record 73.90 career stroke average. No other Husker in history owns a career average better than 75.

Herzog is the latest in a nearly continuous flow of Huskers from the Land of 10,000 Lakes. Cassie Deeg (Hugo, 2013-16), Steffi Neisen (New Prague, 2011-14), Chrissie McArdle (Eden Prairie, 2004-07) and Jackie Beste (2003-06) were all standout golfers for the Big Red.

The 2019-20 season marks the 10th straight year Nebraska has had at least one Minnesota golfer in its lineup. The last time Nebraska had two Minnesota golfers in its lineup was 2015-16 when Deeg and Neisen played out of the top of the Husker lineup.

Smith is the only five-time individual state champion in Minnesota high school history. She capped her career by claiming a share of her record fifth title on June 15, 2016 while leading Detroit Lakes High School to its fourth state team championship in the past five years. She was also the winner of the 2016 Minnesota Ms. Golf Award. Herzog won the 2019 Minnesota Ms. Golf Award at Red Wing High School.

BIG RED FACE SOLID SCHEDULE

The Huskers face another strong schedule in 2019-20, beginning with the Branch Law Firm/Dick McGuire Invitational in Albuquerque, N.M. (Sept. 9-10).

Nebraska continues play at the Golfweek Conference Challenge in Wolcott, Colo., Sept. 23-25. It will be the fourth time in the past seven seasons that the Huskers have competed at Golfweek.

The Huskers play their lone tournament in October at the Edean Ihlanfeldt Invitational in Sammamish, Wash., Oct. 8-9, before closing the fall in the Battle at the Beach at San Jose Del Cabo, Mexico, Nov. 1-3.

The Big Red open the spring for the third consecutive season at the Lady Puerto Rico Classic in Rio Grande, P.R. (Feb. 9-11), before defending their 2019 tournament title at the Westbrook Spring Invitational in Peoria, Ariz. (Feb. 23-24).

The Huskers return to Arizona for the eighth consecutive year to compete in the Clover Cup in Mesa (March 13-15), before traveling to Maui for the Anuenue Spring Break Classic (March 23-25).

Nebraska closes the regular season with its first-ever appearance at the Bruzy Challenge in Argyle, Texas, March 30-31, before returning to Maineville, Ohio, to compete at the Big Ten Championships (April 24-26). The Huskers will compete for the conference crown on the Arnold Palmer-designed Tournament Players Club River's Bend Course, which will serve as the host to the conference tournament for the fourth straight season.

NCAA Regional competitions will be hosted by Georgia, North Carolina State, Notre Dame and Washington State (May 11-13) before the NCAA Championships are held at the Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz. (May 22-27).

HUSKERS SET PACE IN CLASSROOM

Nebraska leads the nation with 338 CoSIDA Academic All-Americans and 17 NCAA Top 10 Award winners across all sports. Nebraska women's golf leads the nation with 77 WGCA Scholastic All-Americans since 1989.

NEBRASKA WOMEN'S GOLF 2019-20 STATISTICS

NEBRASKA 2019-20 TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Tournament	Place/Teams (Round-by-Round Score)
Branch Law Firm/Dick McGuire Invitations (Sept. 9-10)	11th/15 (299-299-294-892)
Golfweek Conference Challenge (Sept. 23-25)	11 a.m.
Edean Ihlanfeldt Invitational (Oct. 8-9)	10 a.m.
Battle at the Beach (Nov. 1-3)	10 a.m.
Lady Puerto Rico Classic (Feb. 9-13)	7 a.m.
Westbrook Spring Invitational (Feb. 23-24)	10 a.m.
Clover Cup (March 13-15)	10 a.m.
Anuene Spring Break Classic (March 23-25)	11 a.m.
The Bruzy Challenge (March 30-31)	9 a.m.
Big Ten Championship (April 24-26)	7:30 a.m.
Season Totals	892/3 Rounds
2018-19 Team Stroke Average	297.33
Season Low Round	294 (Dick McGuire, 3rd)
Season Low (54 Holes)	892 (Dick McGuire)
Tournament Titles	0/1
Top Five Finishes	0/1
Top 10 Finishes	0/1

NEBRASKA INDIVIDUAL CAREER BEST ROUND

Golfer	Round
Kate Smith	64 (2018 Westbrook, 2nd - school record)
Kirsten Baete	66 (2019 Westbrook, 2nd)
Haley Thiele	67 (2015 UNLV Collegiate, 1st)
Vanessa Bouvet	68 (2018 Ptarmigan Ram, 2nd)
Noor Ahmed	70 (2018 Westbrook, 3rd)
Jessica Haraden	73 (2018 Lady Puerto Rico, 1st; 2016 Chip-N Club, 3rd)
Hannah Thiele	73 (2018 Ron Moore, 3rd; 2017 Pinehurst, 2nd)
Megan Whittaker	73 (2019 Clover Cup, 1st)
Leah Herzog	75 (2019 Dick McGuire, 3rd)

NEBRASKA INDIVIDUAL CAREER BEST TOURNAMENT

Golfer	Three Rounds
Kate Smith	202 (2018 Westbrook - school record)
Haley Thiele	209 (2015 UNLV Collegiate)
Kirsten Baete	210 (2019 Westbrook)
Vanessa Bouvet	214 (2018 Ptarmigan Ram)
Noor Ahmed	216 (2017 Pinehurst)
Megan Whittaker	225 (2019 Dick McGuire)
Leah Herzog	228 (2019 Dick McGuire)
Hannah Thiele	228 (2018 Mountain View)
Jessica Haraden	230 (2018 Lady Puerto Rico)

NEBRASKA 2018-19 INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

KATE SMITH

Tournament	Results	Place
Branch Law Firm/Dick McGuire Invite	71-72-70-213	T8th
Season Totals	213 Strokes/3 Rounds	
2019-20 Stroke Average	71.0	
Season Low Round	70 (Dick McGuire, 3rd)	
Top Five Finishes	0/1	
Top 10 Finishes	1/1	
Top 20 Finishes	1/1	

MEGAN WHITTAKER

Tournament	Results	Place
Branch Law Firm/Dick McGuire Invite	74-76-75-225	T45th
Season Totals	225 Strokes/3 Rounds	
2019-20 Stroke Average	75.0	
Season Low Round	74 (Dick McGuire, 1st)	
Top Five Finishes	0/1	
Top 10 Finishes	0/1	
Top 20 Finishes	0/1	

HALEY THIELE

Tournament	Results	Place
Branch Law Firm/Dick McGuire Invite	77-75-74-226	T51st
Season Totals	226 Strokes/3 Rounds	
2019-20 Stroke Average	75.33	
Season Low Round	74 (Dick McGuire, 3rd)	
Top Five Finishes	0/1	
Top 10 Finishes	0/1	
Top 20 Finishes	0/1	

LEAH HERZOG

Tournament	Results	Place
Branch Law Firm/Dick McGuire Invite	77-76-75-228	T63rd
Season Totals	228 Strokes/3 Rounds	
2019-20 Stroke Average	76.0	
Season Low Round	75 (Dick McGuire, 3rd)	
Top Five Finishes	0/1	
Top 10 Finishes	0/1	
Top 20 Finishes	0/1	

VANESSA BOUVET

Tournament	Results	Place
Branch Law Firm/Dick McGuire Invite	80-80-80-240	85th
Season Totals	240 Strokes/3 Rounds	
2019-20 Stroke Average	80.0	
Season Low Round	80 (Dick McGuire, 1st, 2nd, 3rd)	
Top Five Finishes	0/1	
Top 10 Finishes	0/1	
Top 20 Finishes	0/1	

NOOR AHMED

Tournament	Results	Place
Season Totals	0 Strokes/0 Rounds	
2019-20 Stroke Average	0.0	
Season Low Round		
Top Five Finishes		
Top 10 Finishes		
Top 20 Finishes		

KIRSTEN BAETE

Tournament	Results	Place
Season Totals	0 Strokes/0 Rounds	
2019-20 Stroke Average	0.0	
Season Low Round		
Top Five Finishes		
Top 10 Finishes		
Top 20 Finishes		

JESSICA HARADEN

Tournament	Results	Place
Season Totals	0 Strokes/0 Rounds	
2019-20 Stroke Average	0.0	
Season Low Round		
Top Five Finishes		
Top 10 Finishes		
Top 20 Finishes		

NICOLE HANSEN

Tournament	Results	Place
Season Totals	0 Strokes/0 Rounds	
2019-20 Stroke Average	0.0	
Season Low Round		
Top Five Finishes		
Top 10 Finishes		
Top 20 Finishes		

HANNAH THIELE

Tournament	Results	Place
Season Totals	0 Strokes/0 Rounds	
2019-20 Stroke Average	0.0	
Season Low Round		
Top Five Finishes		
Top 10 Finishes		
Top 20 Finishes		