

NEBRASKA

WOMEN'S GOLF

LADY PUERTO RICO CLASSIC, RIO GRANDE, PUERTO RICO - FEBRUARY 9-11, 2020

N 2019-20 SCHEDULE

FALL 2019

Sept. 9-10	Branch Law Firm/Dick McGuire Invite	11th/15
	Albuquerque, N.M.	(299-299-294-892)
Sept. 23-25	Golfweek Conference Challenge	10th/18
	Wolcott, Colo.	(285-305-301-891)
Oct. 8-9	Edean Ihlanfeldt Invitational	7th/11
	Sammamish, Wash.	(317-310-627)
Nov. 1-3	Battle at the Beach	11th/16
	San Jose Del Cabo, Mexico	(308-298-296-902)

SPRING 2020

Feb. 9-11	Lady Puerto Rico Classic	6 a.m.
	Rio Grande, P.R. (Rio Mar GC)	
Feb. 23-24	Westbrook Spring Invitational	10 a.m.
	Peoria, Ariz. (Westbrook Village GC)	
March 13-15	Clover Cup	10 a.m.
	Mesa, Ariz. (Longbow GC)	
March 23-25	Anuenue Spring Break Classic	11 a.m.
	Kapalua Maui, Hawaii (Kapalua Bay GC)	
March 30-31	The Bruzzy Challenge	9 a.m.
	Argyle, Texas (Lantana GC)	
April 24-26	Big Ten Championship	7:30 a.m.
	Maineville, Ohio (TPC River's Bend GC)	
May 11-13	NCAA Regionals	TBA
	Georgia, Notre Dame	
	Washington State, NC State	
May 22-27	NCAA Championships	TBA
	Scottsdale, Ariz. (Grayhawk GC)	

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.	Bretagne, France
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
2018-19 Top Five Finishes	3/10
2018-19 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 TEE OFF SPRING SEASON AT LADY PUERTO RICO CLASSIC

The Nebraska women's golf team opens its 2020 spring season at the Lady Puerto Rico Classic, Feb. 9-11, in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico.

The 15-team event hosted by Purdue begins Sunday, Feb. 9 with a shotgun start at 6 a.m. (CT). The 54-hole tournament continues with a second round at 6 a.m. (CT) on Monday, before concluding with a shotgun start for the final round on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 5:30 a.m. (CT).

The tournament field includes Big Ten teams Indiana, Maryland, Northwestern and Purdue, along with Big 12 schools Iowa State, Oklahoma State, TCU and Texas Tech, Georgia and Kentucky from the SEC and NC State and Virginia Tech from the ACC. Augusta and East Carolina round out the tournament field. Live scoring will be available through GolfStat.com.

Senior Kate Smith continues her bid for an NCAA Regional appearance after a strong fall showing. Smith enters the spring with a 72.82 stroke average over 11 fall rounds. She posted a pair of top-10 finishes in four fall events, including a tie for second at the Edean Ihlanfeldt Invitational (Oct. 8-9). She owns 15 career top-10 tournament finishes.

Sophomore Megan Whittaker will play out of the No. 2 spot in the Husker lineup in Puerto Rico. Whittaker showed impressive improvements in her game with a 74.82 stroke average during the fall. She carried a 77.81 stroke average as a true freshman.

Freshman Leah Herzog joined Smith and Whittaker in the Husker lineup for every round during the fall. Herzog finished the fall with a 77.09 stroke average through 11 rounds.

Senior Haley Thiele and sophomore Kirsten Baete complete the Husker lineup in Puerto Rico.

SMITH ON HER WAY TO RECORD SENIOR SEASON FOR NEBRASKA

Kate Smith is taking aim at her best season yet, as she begins her final spring season at Nebraska.

Smith has played 98 rounds and owns a Nebraska-record 73.60 career stroke average. She owns a team-best 72.82 average through 11 rounds, with seven of 11 rounds at or better than par (72).

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.

The senior from Detroit Lakes, Minn., finished 2018-19 No. 223 in the GolfStat player rankings. She owns 23 career top-25 individual tournament finishes, including 15 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 28 rounds better than par in her career, including a school-record 64 (-8) in the second round of the 2018 Westbrook Invite.

WHITTAKER PUT TOGETHER IMPRESSIVE FALL IMPROVEMENT

Megan Whittaker continued her upward trajectory through each tournament of the fall season in 2019. The sophomore from Elkhorn, Neb., produced her first career top-20 finish after tying for 16th at the rain-shortened Edean Ihlanfeldt Invitational, in Sammamish, Wash., Oct. 8-9. Whittaker established

LADY PUERTO RICO CLASSIC

Location	Rio Grande, Puerto Rico
Host	Purdue
Course	Rio Mar Resort & Country Club (River Course, Par 72, 6,164 Yards)
Sunday, Feb. 9 (Shotgun)	6 a.m. (CT)
Monday, Feb. 10 (Shotgun)	6 a.m. (CT)
Tuesday, Feb. 11 (Shotgun)	5:30 a.m. (CT)
Live Scoring:	GolfStat.com

Participating Teams (15)

Augusta	East Carolina
Georgia	Indiana
Iowa State	Kentucky
Maryland	NC State
Nebraska	Northwestern
Oklahoma State	Purdue
TCU	Texas Tech
Virginia Tech	

NEBRASKA LINEUP

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Kate Smith | 2. Megan Whittaker |
| 3. Haley Thiele | 4. Leah Herzog |
| 5. Kirsten Baete | |

herself as a consistent contributor in the Husker lineup this past fall, posting Nebraska's No. 2 stroke average (74.82).

Herzog's fall stroke average was nearly three strokes per round better than her 77.81 average from her freshman campaign. She closed the fall with a career-best 69 in the second round of the Battle of the Beach in Mexico, Nov. 2.

Whittaker fired a then-collegiate best with an opening-round 72 at the Golfweek Conference Challenge. She set a then-collegiate tournament best with a 225 at the Branch Law Firm/Dick McGuire Invite before shooting a 221 at Golfweek.

LADY PUERTO RICO CLASSIC, FEBRUARY 9-11, 2020

FRESHMAN HERZOG HELPING SOLIDIFY HUSKER LINEUP

Leah Herzog has provided a consistent threat for Nebraska by competing in every round in the Husker lineup in her first season on campus.

The true freshman from Red Wing, Minn., ranks fourth on the team with a 77.09 stroke average while joining Kate Smith and Megan Whittaker as the only Huskers to compete in all 11 fall rounds.

Herzog's fall included a Nebraska true freshman-record 66 (-6) in the opening round of the Golfweek Conference Challenge in Wolcott, Colo., Sept. 23.

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.

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 entered 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.

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 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 77.10 stroke average over 94 career rounds for the Huskers.

2019 FRESHMEN LOOKING TO SHINE AS SOPHOMORES FOR BIG RED

Vanessa Bouvet, Kirsten Baete and Megan Whittaker were all impact players for NU in 2018-19, and have contributed for the Huskers during 2019-20.

Bouvet produced Nebraska's No. 2 stroke average in 2018-19 and one of the best averages by a freshman in school history (75.79) while competing in 24 rounds for the Huskers.

Bouvet (Bretagne, France) 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 fourth-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, 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). 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.

Whittaker continued to improve her game with a 225 at the Branch Law Firm/Dick McGuire Invitational to open 2019-20, before her career-best 221 to tie for 33rd at the Golfweek Conference Challenge. She produced a career-best tie for 16th at the Edean Ihanfeldt Invitational in Sammamish, Wash., Oct. 8-9, before setting a career-best with a second-round 69 at the Battle of the Beach to close the fall season.

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 2019 Lady Puerto Rico Classic.

BIG RED FACE SOLID SCHEDULE

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

Nebraska continued play at the Golfweek Conference Challenge in Wolcott, Colo., Sept. 23-25, marking the fourth time in seven seasons the Huskers competed at Golfweek.

The Huskers played their lone tournament in October at the Edean Ihanfeldt 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 Bruzzy 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 Invitational (Sept. 9-10)	11th/15 (299-299-294-892)
Golfweek Conference Challenge (Sept. 23-25)	10th/18 (285-305-301-891)
Edean Ihlanfeldt Invitational (Oct. 8-9)	7th/11 (317-310-627)
Battle at the Beach (Nov. 1-3)	11th/16 (308-298-296-902)
Lady Puerto Rico Classic (Feb. 9-11)	6 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	3,312/11 Rounds
2018-19 Team Stroke Average	301.09
Season Low Round	285 (Golfweek, 1st)
Season Low (54 Holes)	891 (Golfweek)
Tournament Titles	0/4
Top Five Finishes	0/4
Top 10 Finishes	2/4

NEBRASKA INDIVIDUAL CAREER BEST ROUND

Golfer	Round
Kate Smith	64 (2018 Westbrook, 2nd - school record)
Kirsten Baete	66 (2019 Westbrook, 2nd)
Leah Herzog	66 (2019 Golfweek, 1st)
Haley Thiele	67 (2015 UNLV Collegiate, 1st)
Vanessa Bouvet	68 (2018 Ptarmigan Ram, 2nd)
Megan Whittaker	69 (2019 Battle at the Beach, 2nd)
Noor Ahmed	70 (2018 Westbrook, 3rd)
Jessica Haraden	71 (2019 Golfweek, 3rd)
Hannah Thiele	73 (2018 Ron Moore, 3rd; 2017 Pinehurst, 2nd)

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)
Jessica Haraden	220 (2019 Golfweek)
Megan Whittaker	221 (2019 Golfweek)
Leah Herzog	227 (2019 Golfweek)
Hannah Thiele	228 (2018 Mountain View)

NEBRASKA 2019-20 INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

KATE SMITH

Tournament	Results	Place
Branch Law Firm/Dick McGuire Invite	71-72-70-213	T8th
Golfweek Conference Challenge	70-78-72-220	T29th
Edean Ihlanfeldt Invitational	77-71-148	T2nd
Battle at the Beach	72-74-74-220	T25th
Season Totals	801 Strokes/11 Rounds	
2019-20 Stroke Average	72.82	
Season Low Round	70 (Dick McGuire, 3rd)	
	70 (Golfweek, 1st)	
Top Five Finishes	1/4	
Top 10 Finishes	2/4	
Top 20 Finishes	2/4	

MEGAN WHITTAKER

Tournament	Results	Place
Branch Law Firm/Dick McGuire Invite	74-76-75-225	T45th
Golfweek Conference Challenge	72-74-75-221	33rd
Edean Ihlanfeldt Invitational	79-75-154	T16th
Battle at the Beach	79-69-75-223	T36th
Season Totals	823 Strokes/11 Rounds	
2019-20 Stroke Average	74.82	
Season Low Round	69 (Battle at the Beach, 2nd)	
Top Five Finishes	0/4	
Top 10 Finishes	0/4	
Top 20 Finishes	1/4	

NOOR AHMED

Tournament	Results	Place
Golfweek Conference Challenge	77-76-78-231	T71st
Season Totals	231 Strokes/3 Rounds	

2019-20 Stroke Average	77.00
Season Low Round	76 (Golfweek, 2nd)
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
Golfweek Conference Challenge	66-77-84-227	T57th
Edean Ihlanfeldt Invitational	79-80-159	T36th
Battle at the Beach	77-77-80-234	T71st
Season Totals	848 Strokes/11 Rounds	
2019-20 Stroke Average	77.09	
Season Low Round	66 (Golfweek, 1st)	
Top Five Finishes	0/4	
Top 10 Finishes	0/4	
Top 20 Finishes	0/4	

KIRSTEN BAETE

Tournament	Results	Place
Battle at the Beach	80-79-73-232	T67th
Season Totals	232 Strokes/3 Rounds	
2019-20 Stroke Average	77.33	
Season Low Round	73	
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
Golfweek Conference Challenge	84-80-76-240	91st
Battle at the Beach	82-78-74-234	T71st
Season Totals	700 Strokes/9 Rounds	
2019-20 Stroke Average	77.78	
Season Low Round	74 (Battle at the Beach, 3rd)	
	74 (Dick McGuire, 3rd)	
Top Five Finishes	0/3	
Top 10 Finishes	0/3	
Top 20 Finishes	0/3	

JESSICA HARADEN

Tournament	Results	Place
*Golfweek Conference Challenge	75-74-71-220	T29th
Edean Ihlanfeldt Invitational	85-84-169	55th
Season Totals	389 Strokes/5 Rounds	
2019-20 Stroke Average	77.80	
Season Low Round	71 (Golfweek)	
Top Five Finishes	0/2	
Top 10 Finishes	0/2	
Top 20 Finishes	0/1	

**competed as an individual outside Nebraska's lineup*

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	80.00	
Season Low Round	80 (Dick McGuire, 1st, 2nd, 3rd)	
Top Five Finishes	0/1	
Top 10 Finishes	0/1	
Top 20 Finishes	0/1	

HANNAH THIELE

Tournament	Results	Place
Edean Ihlanfeldt Invitational	82-85-167	T52nd
*Battle at the Beach	81-80-79-240	T79th
Season Totals	407 Strokes/5 Rounds	
2019-20 Stroke Average	81.40	
Season Low Round	79 (Battle at the Beach, 3rd)	
Top Five Finishes	0/2	
Top 10 Finishes	0/2	
Top 20 Finishes	0/2	

**competed as an individual outside Nebraska's lineup*