

# NEBRASKA

## WOMEN'S GOLF

ARIZONA WILDCAT INVITATIONAL, TUCSON, ARIZONA - MARCH 8-9, 2021

### N 2020-21 SCHEDULE

#### SPRING 2021

Feb. 1-2	Trinity Forest Invitational Dallas, Texas	T9th/14 (310-314-292-916)
March 1-3	Bruin Wave Invitational Somis, Calif.	T7th/15 (318-319-310-947)
March 8-9	Arizona Wildcat Invitational Tucson, Ariz. (Sewailo GC)	8:30 a.m.
March 14-16	Allstate Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate New Orleans, La. (English Turn GC)	8 a.m.
April 17-18	Indiana Spring Invitational Bloomington, Ind. (IU Golf Course)	8 a.m.
April 23-25	Big Ten Championship Maineville, Ohio (TPC River's Bend GC)	7:30 a.m.
May 10-12	NCAA Regionals Sites to be Announced	TBA
May 21-26	NCAA Championships Scottsdale, Ariz. (Grayhawk GC)	TBA

### N NEBRASKA ROSTER

Student-Athlete	Class	Hometown (High School/Other)
Noor Ahmed***	Sr.	Folsom, Calif. (Vista del Lago)
Kirsten Baete**	RJr.	Beatrice, Neb. (Beatrice)
Vanessa Bouvet**	Jr.	Bretagne, France
Alice Duan	Gr./Sr.	Reno, Nev. (CSUN/Washington)
Nicole Hansen*	RSo.	Bloomington, Ill. (Lake Park)
Jessica Haraden***	RSr.	Thousand Oaks, Calif. (Oaks Christian)
Leah Herzog*	So.	Red Wing, Minn. (Red Wing)
Kate Smith****	RSr.	Detroit Lakes, Minn. (Detroit Lakes)
Hannah Thiele***	Sr.	Wahoo, Neb. (Bishop Neumann)
Lindsey Thiele	Fr.	Wahoo, Neb. (Bishop Neumann)
Michaela Vavrova	Fr.	Bojnice, Slovakia (National Team)
Andrea Velez	Fr.	Pereira, Colombia (Liceo Frances De Pereira)
Megan Whittaker**	Jr.	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	Anne Hackbart
Golf Office Phone	(402) 472-1415
2019-20 Top 10 Finishes	3/6
2019-20 Top Five Finishes	0/6
2019-20 Tournament Titles	None
Big Ten Conference	10th Season
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	9/1
Newcomers	4
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 MAKE QUICK TURNAROUND WITH TRIP TO ARIZONA

After a 48-hour stop at home in Lincoln, the Nebraska women's golf team heads west again to compete in the Arizona Wildcat Invitational in Tucson, March 8-9.

The 14-team event opens Monday, March 8 with a shotgun start at the Sewailo Golf Club beginning at 8:30 a.m. (CT). The teams will play 36 holes on Monday, before closing the tournament with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. (CT) on Tuesday.

Live scoring for the tournament will be available at GolfStat.com.

The tournament field includes No. 3 USC, No. 27 Arizona, No. 28 Oregon, No. 35 Colorado, No. 43 Iowa State, No. 63 New Mexico, No. 68 UNLV, No. 71 Iowa, No. 74 Oregon State, No. 78 Nebraska, No. 120 Northern Arizona, No. 126 Long Beach State, Denver and New Mexico State. USC's Allison Corpuz enters the tournament as the highest ranked golfer in the field at No. 8, while Arizona's YuSang Hou was ranked No. 31 by GolfStat (March 5). USC's Alyaa Abdulghany (41st) and Nebraska's Kate Smith (48th) put four of the nation's top 50 golfers in the field, while five others entered the weekend in GolfStat's top 100.

Smith, a fifth-year senior, is hunting for her second career NCAA Regional bid. Nebraska's career stroke average leader (73.50), Smith has opened 2021 with two top-10 finishes. She tied for third at the Trinity Forest Invitational in Dallas, Texas (Feb. 1-2), before taking sixth against a loaded field in challenging scoring conditions at the Bruin Wave Invitational (March 1-3).

Graduate transfer Alice Duan, junior Megan Whittaker, freshman Michaela Vavrova and redshirt junior Kirsten Baete complete NU's five-player lineup in the count-four scoring at Arizona.

### SMITH EARNS AUGUSTA NATIONAL WOMEN'S AMATEUR INVITATION

After a series of solid performances during the summer and fall, Nebraska senior Kate Smith earned an invitation to compete in the second annual Augusta National Women's Amateur Championship (March 31-April 3). She was among an elite list of just 72 of the top amateurs in the world to receive a coveted invite to the event when they were sent to golfers in late January.

### SMITH SHINES DESPITE ABRUPT END TO TRUE SENIOR SEASON IN 2020

Despite having her fourth year at Nebraska cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic, Kate Smith continued to add to her long list of accomplishments as a Husker golfer.

In the summer of 2020, Smith won the Minnesota Golf Association Women's Amateur Championship for the second time, before qualifying for the 120th U.S. Women's Amateur in Rockville, Md.

Smith finished 15th in the stroke play portion of the U.S. Women's Amateur and advanced to the round of 32 in the match play event. She also went on to be named the Minnesota Golf Association Women's Co-Player of the Year for 2020.

### SMITH CLAIMS NEBRASKA'S FIRST BIG TEN MARY FOSSUM AWARD

One of the top golfers in Husker history, Kate Smith captured Nebraska's first Big Ten Mary Fossum Award for owning the best stroke average relative to par among all league golfers in 2019-20. Smith set the Nebraska season record for the third straight year with her 72.18 stroke average.

### ARIZONA WILDCAT INVITATIONAL

Location	Tucson, Arizona
Host	Arizona
Course	Sewailo Golf Club (Par 72, TBA Yards)
Monday, March 8 (Shotgun, 2 rounds)	8:30 a.m. (CT)
Tuesday, March 9 (Shotgun)	9 a.m. (CT)

Live Scoring: GolfStat.com

#### Participating Teams (14)

Arizona (27)	Colorado (35)
Denver	Iowa (71)
Iowa State (43)	Long Beach State (126)
Nebraska (78)	New Mexico (63)
New Mexico State	Northern Arizona (120)
Oregon (28)	Oregon State (74)
UNLV (68)	USC (3)

### NEBRASKA LINEUP

1. Kate Smith
2. Alice Duan
3. Megan Whittaker
4. Michaela Vavrova
5. Kirsten Baete

Smith also became the first Husker to earn All-Big Ten honors since Maddie Sheils earned the award in Nebraska's first season in the conference in 2012.

Smith was on track to earn an NCAA Regional bid as an individual for the Huskers in 2020, before the coronavirus outbreak brought the spring season to an end.

The NCAA granted seniors an additional year of eligibility, and Smith is taking full advantage of the chance for one more season of college golf in 2020-21.

Smith has played 110 rounds and owns a Nebraska-record 73.50 career stroke average.

## ARIZONA WILDCAT INVITATIONAL, MARCH 8-9, 2021

In 2018-19, 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.

Smith finished No. 101 in the 2019-20 GolfStat player rankings after closing 2018-19 at No. 223 nationally. She owns 25 career top-25 individual tournament finishes, including 17 top-10 showings. She has also won four 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 203 (-13) at the 2020 Westbrook Spring Invitational (Feb. 23-24) to finish as the runner-up.

She has fired 31 rounds better than par in her career, including a school-record 64 (-8) in the second round of the 2018 Westbrook Invite.

### HUSKERS TIE FOR SEVENTH AT BRUIN WAVE INVITATIONAL

In a 15-team field that featured 11 top-100 teams, Nebraska battled to a tie for seventh at the Bruin Wave Invitational in Somis, Calif., March 1-3.

In extremely challenging scoring conditions, Kate Smith surged up the leaderboard in the final round, closing with three straight birdies to take sixth (227) in an 82-golfer field.

The Huskers finished ahead of No. 34 San Diego State and No. 58 Cal Poly, while tying No. 65 Washington and No. 74 Oregon State. No. 9 Arizona State took the team title, while No. 16 Northwestern was the runner-up.

### SMITH WINS BIG TEN WEEKLY HONOR AFTER STRONG SHOWING AT SMU

Kate Smith got her 2021 collegiate season off to a strong start with a tie for third at the Trinity Forest Invitational in Dallas (Feb. 1-2).

Smith charged 15 spots up the leaderboard over the last 18 holes with a final-round 68 (-4). She carded five birdies and an eagle in the final round to finish with a three-round score of 219.

Her performance at Trinity Forest earned her the fourth Big Ten Golfer-of-the-Week award of her career on Feb. 3.

### FRESH FACES FILLING HUSKER LINEUP AROUND FIFTH-YEAR SENIOR SMITH

Nebraska's lineup early in 2021 is led by a five-year collegiate veteran in Kate Smith, but it is also filled with new faces.

Graduate transfer Alice Duan hopes to make an instant impact for the Big Red this spring. Duan earned her bachelor's degree from Washington in June before transferring to Nebraska.

During the summer of 2020, Duan was named the Washington Golf Women's Player of the Year after winning the Washington Women's Amateur Championship.

Duan spent the first two years of her college career at Cal State Northridge before helping Washington to the NCAA Championships as a junior in 2019. She tied for 13th individually at the 2019 Pac-12 Championships before tying for 28th at the 2019 NCAA Cle Elum Regional to help the Huskies



to a runner-up finish and a berth at nationals.

Freshmen Michaela Vavrova (Bojnice, Slovakia) and Lindsey Thiele (Wahoo, Neb.) have brought young energy to the lineup.

Vavrova came to Nebraska as a two-time Slovak U18 National Champion. She earned a spot on the Slovak Elite National Team in 2021.

The first Slovakian women's golfer in Husker history, Vavrova was Nebraska's No. 4 finisher at the Trinity Forest and Bruin Wave invitationals.

### CORNHUSKER STATE GOLFERS IMPACT NEBRASKA 2021 ROSTER

Nebraska's 2021 women's golf roster features a strong Cornhusker State flavor.

Senior Hannah Thiele and her younger sister Lindsey continue a Husker golf family tradition that included their older sister, Haley. The sisters represent the southeast Nebraska town of Wahoo.

Kirsten Baete provides more southeast Nebraska spirit. The redshirt junior from Beatrice has competed in 36 rounds as a Husker, including a lineup spot in the 2019 Big Ten Championships.

Megan Whittaker (Elkhorn) completes the four Nebraska natives on the Big Red roster. Whittaker has appeared in 41 rounds for the Huskers, including lineup spots in NU's first three tournaments of 2021.

Whittaker, the daughter of former Husker golfer Kim (Lefler) Whittaker, matched Kate Smith for Nebraska's top individual finish at the 2019 Big Ten Championships. In October of 2020, Whittaker won The Harvest at Indian Creek hosted by the Nebraska Golf Association.

### SMITH, HERZOG CONTINUE MINNESOTA CONNECTION

Kate Smith (Detroit Lakes) and Leah Herzog (Red Wing) continue a tradition of top golfers from the state of Minnesota playing at Nebraska.

Smith, who owns Nebraska's career stroke average record (73.50), is the only Husker in history

with a career average better than 75.

Herzog, who joined Smith as the only Huskers to compete in all 17 rounds in 2019-20, was the 2019 Minnesota Ms. Golf.

A four-time All-Minnesota selection and a two-time Class 2A state runner-up, 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 2020-21 season marks the 11th straight year NU has had at least one Minnesota golfer.

Nebraska also had two Minnesota golfers in its lineup in 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.

### BIG RED FACE SOLID SCHEDULE

The Huskers put together a challenging spring schedule, beginning with the SMU Trinity Forest Invite (Feb. 1-2). NU faced a field with nationally ranked opponents and tied for ninth with perennial national power Washington at the two-day event.

After nearly a month off from competition, the Huskers tied for seventh in a loaded 15-team field that featured 11 top-100 teams at the Bruin Wave Invitational in Somis, Calif. (March 1-3).

Nebraska competes at the Arizona Wildcat Invitational (March 8-9), before venturing to New Orleans for the Allstate Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate (March 14-16).

In between Nebraska's team competition in Louisiana and its final regular-season tournament, Kate Smith will be the first Husker women's golfer in history to compete in the Augusta National Women's Amateur Championship (March 31-April 3).

Nebraska is scheduled to close the regular season at the Indiana Spring Invitational in Bloomington, April 17-18, before returning to Maineville, Ohio, to compete at the Big Ten Championships (April 23-25). 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 held at sites to be determined (May 10-12) before the NCAA Championships are held at the Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz. (May 21-26).

### HUSKERS SET PACE IN CLASSROOM

Nebraska leads the nation with 340 CoSIDA Academic All-Americans and 18 NCAA Top 10 Award winners across all sports. Nebraska women's golf leads the nation with 82 WGCA Scholastic All-Americans since 1989.

Nebraska established a school-best 94 percent graduation rate across all student-athletes in all sports in 2019-20. Husker student-athletes also posted a fall-record combined semester GPA of 3.325.

# NEBRASKA WOMEN'S GOLF 2020-21 STATISTICS

## NEBRASKA 2020-21 TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Tournament	Place/Teams (Round-by-Round Score)
Trinity Forest Invitational (Feb. 1-2)	T9th/14 (310-314-292-916)
Bruin Wave Invitational (March 1-3)	T7th/15 (318-319-310-947)
Arizona Wildcat Invitational (March 8-9)	8:30 a.m.
Allstate Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate (March 14-16)	8 a.m.
Indiana Spring Invitational (April 17-18)	8 a.m.
Big Ten Championship (April 17-18)	7:30 a.m.
Season Totals	1,863/6 Rounds
2019-20 Team Stroke Average	310.50
Season Low Round	292 (Trinity Forest, 3rd)
Season Low (54 Holes)	916 (Trinity Forest)
Tournament Titles	0/2
Top Five Finishes	0/2
Top 10 Finishes	2/2

## 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)
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)
Alice Duan	72 (2021 Trinity Forest, 3rd)
Hannah Thiele	73 (2018 Ron Moore, 3rd; 2017 Pinehurst, 2nd)
Lindsey Thiele	74 (2021 Trinity Forest, 3rd)
Nicole Hansen	75 (2020 Westbrook, 3rd)
Michaela Vavrova	77 (2021 Bruin Wave, 3rd)

## NEBRASKA INDIVIDUAL CAREER BEST TOURNAMENT

Golfer	Three Rounds
Kate Smith	202 (2018 Westbrook - school record)
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	225 (2020 Westbrook)
Hannah Thiele	228 (2018 Mountain View)
Lindsey Thiele	232 (2021 Trinity Forest)
Alice Duan	233 (2021 Trinity Forest)
Michaela Vavrova	237 (2021 Trinity Forest)
Nicole Hansen	243 (2020 Westbrook)

## NEBRASKA 2020-21 INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

### KATE SMITH

Tournament	Results	Place
Trinity Forest Ihlanfeldt Invitational	75-76-68-219	T3rd
Bruin Wave Invitational	78-74-75-227	6th
Season Totals	446 Strokes/6 Rounds	
2020-21 Stroke Average		74.33
Season Low Round		68 (Trinity Forest, 3rd)
Top Five Finishes		1/2
Top 10 Finishes		2/2
Top 20 Finishes		2/2

### ALICE DUAN

Tournament	Results	Place
Trinity Forest Invitational	79-82-72-233	47th
Bruin Wave Invitational	79-82-78-239	T31st
Season Totals	472 Strokes/6 Rounds	
2020-21 Stroke Average		78.67
Season Low Round		72 (Trinity Forest, 3rd)
Top Five Finishes		0/2
Top 10 Finishes		0/2
Top 20 Finishes		0/2

### MICHAELA VAVROVA

Tournament	Results	Place
Trinity Forest Invitational	80-79-78-237	T55th
Bruin Wave Invitational	84-84-77-245	49th
Season Totals	482 Strokes/6 Rounds	
2020-21 Stroke Average		80.33
Season Low Round		77 (Bruin Wave, 3rd)
Top Five Finishes		0/2
Top 10 Finishes		0/2
Top 20 Finishes		0/2

### LINDSEY THIELE

Tournament	Results	Place
Trinity Forest Invitational	76-82-74-232	T43rd
Bruin Wave Invitational	89-79-84-252	T67
Season Totals	484 Strokes/6 Rounds	
2020-21 Stroke Average		80.67
Season Low Round		74 (Trinity Forest, 3rd)
Top Five Finishes		0/2
Top 10 Finishes		0/2
Top 20 Finishes		0/2

### MEGAN WHITTAKER

Tournament	Results	Place
Trinity Forest Invitational	83-77-80-240	T65th
Bruin Wave Invitational	77-87-80-244	T45th
Season Totals	484 Strokes/6 Rounds	
2020-21 Stroke Average		80.67
Season Low Round		77 (Bruin Wave, 1st; Trinity Forest, 2nd)
Top Five Finishes		0/2
Top 10 Finishes		0/2
Top 20 Finishes		0/2