

NEBRASKA

WOMEN'S GOLF

BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIP, MAINEVILLE, OHIO - APRIL 23-25, 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.	10th/16 (307-304-291-902)
March 14-16	Allstate Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate New Orleans, La.	1st/13 (294-302-288-884)
April 17-18	Indiana Spring Invitational Bloomington, Ind.	T6th/16 (294-298-295-887)
April 23-25	Big Ten Championship Maineville, Ohio (TPC River's Bend GC)	7:30 a.m.
May 10-12	NCAA Regionals LSU, Ohio State, Louisville, Stanford	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	kgriesch@huskers.com
Facebook	Nebraska Women's Golf
Twitter	@huskerwgf

HUSKERS HOPE TO CONTINUE MOMENTUM AT BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIP

The Nebraska women's golf team makes its final push for postseason play when the Huskers travel to Maineville, Ohio to compete at the 2021 Big Ten Championship, April 23-25.

The 13-team event opens Friday with tee times beginning at 7:30 a.m. (CT) on the 6,300-yard, par-72 layout at TPC River's Bend Golf Course. The three-day, 54-hole event that features a six-count-four scoring format continues on Saturday with the second round again at 7:30 a.m. (CT). The tournament concludes Sunday with final-round tee times starting at 7 a.m. (CT).

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

Kate Smith, a fifth-year senior from Detroit Lakes, Minn., leads Nebraska into her final Big Ten Championship. Smith owns four top-10 finishes in five spring events, including a victory at the Allstate Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate (March 14-16). She is coming off a tie for eighth (72-72-73-217) at the Indiana Spring Invitational, which featured all 14 Big Ten Conference teams.

At No. 34 nationally, Smith enters the tournament as the fourth-highest-ranked Big Ten golfer in the field, trailing only No. 17 Virun Olankitkunchai (Maryland), No. 22 Irene Kim (Northwestern) and No. 33 Ashley Lau (Michigan). Other individuals among the top 100 in the national rankings include No. 43 Valery Plata (Michigan State), No. 76 Laura Van Respaille (Maryland), No. 85 Tristyn Nowlin (Illinois), No. 86 Crystal Wang (Illinois) and No. 91 Monet Chun (Michigan).

Graduate transfer Alice Duan heads to Ohio with momentum after her best performance as a Husker at the Indiana Spring Invitational. Her tie for 12th came with a season-best 217. Freshman Michaela Vavrova added her third straight top-25 finish with a career-best tie for 19th at Indiana.

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 82 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 tied for 30th through two rounds, but missed the cut as Maja Stark sank a birdie putt on the first playoff hole to claim the last spot to advance to the final round at Augusta on April 3.

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 Fossom

BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Location	Maineville, Ohio
Host	Big Ten Conference
Course	TPC River's Bend Golf Course (Par 72, 6,300 Yards)
Friday, April 23 (Tee Times)	7:30 a.m. (CT)
Saturday, April 24 (Tee Times)	7:30 a.m. (CT)
Sunday, April 25 (Tee Times)	7 a.m. (CT)

Live Scoring: GolfStat.com

Participating Teams (13)

Illinois (41)	Indiana (147)
Iowa (84)	Maryland (19)
Michigan (25)	Michigan State (38)
Minnesota (74)	Nebraska (55)
Northwestern (30)	Penn State (72)
Purdue (42)	Rutgers (116)
Wisconsin (85)	

NEBRASKA LINEUP

1. Kate Smith	2. Alice Duan
3. Michaela Vavrova	4. Kirsten Baete
5. Megan Whittaker	6. Lindsey Thiele

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.

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

BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIP, APRIL 23-25, 2021

the chance for one more season of college golf in 2020-21.

Smith has played 119 rounds and owns a Nebraska-record 73.41 career stroke average.

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 29 career top-25 individual tournament finishes, including 20 top-10 showings. She also has won five 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 34 rounds better than par in her career, including a school-record 64 (-8) in the second round of the 2018 Westbrook Invite.

SMITH, HUSKERS WIN IN NOLA

Kate Smith captured her first career tournament title with a three-round total of 215 (-1) to lead Nebraska to the team championship at the Allstate Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate at the English Turn Golf & Country Club (March 14-16) in New Orleans.

Smith led from wire-to-wire after an opening-round 71 was followed by a second-round 74 in tough scoring conditions at English Turn. She capped the victory with a final-round 70 (-2).

All five Huskers in the lineup joined Smith in the top-25 at the 13-team event, including Kirsten Baete (4th), Michaela Vavrova (T20th), Alice Duan and Lindsey Thiele (T23rd).

Nebraska's season-best round of 288 on the final day helped the Huskers finish with a season-best 884 team total to win the tournament by seven shots.

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 has also made 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 tied Kate Smith for NU's top finish at the Arizona Wildcat Invitational (March 8-9).

Vavrova and Thiele both added top-25 finishes to help the Huskers capture the team title at the Allstate Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate (March 14-16).

Vavrova added a third consecutive top-25 showing with her tie for 19th at Indiana (April 17-18).

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 47 rounds as a Husker, including a lineup spot in the 2019 Big Ten Championships. Baete notched a fourth-place finish (221) at the Allstate Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate (March 14-16).

Megan Whittaker (Elkhorn) completes the four Nebraska natives on the Big Red roster. Whittaker has appeared in 47 rounds for the Huskers, including lineup spots in four tournaments in 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 (73.41), 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 took 10th in a 16-team field at the Arizona Wildcat Invitational (March 8-9) with all 16 teams ranked among the nation's top 130, before winning the Allstate Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate (March 14-16) in New Orleans. Nebraska climbed into the top-60 nationally in the rankings with the win in Louisiana.

Kate Smith became the first Husker women's golfer in history to compete in the Augusta National Women's Amateur Championship (March 31-April 3).

Nebraska closed the regular season with a tie for sixth in an impressive 16-team field at the Indiana 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 TPC River's Bend Course, which serves as the host to the conference tournament for the fourth straight time.

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)	10th/16 (307-304-291-902)
Allstate Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate (March 14-16)	1st/13 (294-302-288-884)
Indiana Spring Invitational (April 17-18)	T6th/16 (294-298-295-887)
Big Ten Championship (April 17-18)	7:30 a.m.
Season Totals	4,536/15 Rounds
2019-20 Team Stroke Average	302.40
Season Low Round	288 (Allstate Sugar Bowl, 3rd)
Season Low (54 Holes)	884 (Allstate Sugar Bowl)
Tournament Titles	1/5
Top Five Finishes	1/5
Top 10 Finishes	5/5

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)
Alice Duan	.71 (2021 Indiana, 1st)
Michaela Vavrova	.70 (2021 Arizona Wildcat, 2nd)
Jessica Haraden	.71 (2019 Golfweek, 3rd)
Lindsey Thiele	.72 (2021 Allstate Sugar Bowl, 3rd)
Hannah Thiele	.73 (2018 Ron Moore, 3rd; 2017 Pinehurst, 2nd)
Nicole Hansen	.75 (2020 Westbrook, 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)
Alice Duan	.218 (2021 Indiana)
Michaela Vavrova	.219 (2021 Arizona Wildcat)
Jessica Haraden	.220 (2019 Golfweek)
Megan Whittaker	.221 (2019 Golfweek)
Leah Herzog	.225 (2020 Westbrook)
Hannah Thiele	.228 (2018 Mountain View)
Lindsey Thiele	.229 (2021 Allstate Sugar Bowl)
Nicole Hansen	.243 (2020 Westbrook)

NEBRASKA 2020-21 INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

KATE SMITH

Tournament	Results	Place
Trinity Forest Ihanfeldt Invitational	75-76-68-219	T3rd
Bruin Wave Invitational	78-74-75-227	6th
Arizona Wildcat Invitational	77-73-69-219	T21st
Allstate Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate	71-74-70-215	1st
Indiana Spring Invitational	72-72-73-217	T8th
Season Totals	1,097 Strokes/15 Rounds	
2020-21 Stroke Average	73.13	
Season Low Round	68 (Trinity Forest, 3rd)	
Top Five Finishes	3/5	
Top 10 Finishes	4/5	
Top 20 Finishes	4/5	

KIRSTEN BAETE

Tournament	Results	Place
Arizona Wildcat Invitational	77-79-72-228	T48th
Allstate Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate	73-76-72-221	4th
Indiana Spring Invitational	79-76-79-234	T69th
Season Totals	683 Strokes/9 Rounds	
2020-21 Stroke Average	75.89	
Season Low Round	72 (Allstate Sugar Bowl, 3rd)	
	72 (Arizona Wildcat, 3rd)	
Top Five Finishes	1/3	

Top 10 Finishes	1/3
Top 20 Finishes	1/3

MICHAELA VAVROVA

Tournament	Results	Place
Trinity Forest Invitational	80-79-78-237	T55th
Bruin Wave Invitational	84-84-77-245	49th
Arizona Wildcat Invitational	76-70-73-219	T21st
Allstate Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate	76-76-76-228	T20th
Indiana Spring Invitational	74-75-72-221	T19th
Season Totals	1,150 Strokes/15 Rounds	
2020-21 Stroke Average	76.67	
Season Low Round	72 (Indiana, 3rd)	
	72 (Arizona Wildcat, 2nd)	
Top Five Finishes	0/5	
Top 10 Finishes	0/5	
Top 20 Finishes	2/5	

ALICE DUAN

Tournament	Results	Place
Trinity Forest Invitational	79-82-72-233	47th
Bruin Wave Invitational	79-82-78-239	T31st
Arizona Wildcat Invitational	77-82-77-236	T66th
Allstate Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate	79-76-74-229	T23rd
Indiana Spring Invitational	71-75-72-218	T12th
Season Totals	1,155 Strokes/15 Rounds	
2020-21 Stroke Average	77.00	
Season Low Round	71 (Indiana, 1st)	
Top Five Finishes	0/5	
Top 10 Finishes	0/5	
Top 20 Finishes	1/5	

NOOR AHMED

Tournament	Results	Place
*Allstate Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate	81-79-80-240	T63rd
Season Totals	240 Strokes/3 Rounds	
2020-21 Stroke Average	80.00	
Season Low Round	79 (Allstate Sugar Bowl, 2nd)	
Top Five Finishes	0/1	
Top 10 Finishes	0/1	
Top 20 Finishes	0/1	

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

LINDSEY THIELE

Tournament	Results	Place
Trinity Forest Invitational	76-82-74-232	T43rd
Bruin Wave Invitational	89-79-84-252	T67th
Allstate Sugar Bowl Intercollegiate	74-83-72-229	T23rd
Indiana Spring Invitational	85-78-85-248	T94th
Season Totals	961 Strokes/12 Rounds	
2020-21 Stroke Average	80.08	
Season Low Round	72 (Allstate Sugar Bowl, 3rd)	
Top Five Finishes	0/4	
Top 10 Finishes	0/4	
Top 20 Finishes	0/4	

MEGAN WHITTAKER

Tournament	Results	Place
Trinity Forest Invitational	83-77-80-240	T65th
Bruin Wave Invitational	77-87-80-244	T45th
Arizona Wildcat Invitational	81-83-82-246	76th
Indiana Spring Invitational	77-78-78-233	T65th
Season Totals	963 Strokes/12 Rounds	
2020-21 Stroke Average	80.25	
Season Low Round	77 (Indiana, 1st; Bruin Wave, 1st; Trinity Forest, 2nd)	
Top Five Finishes	0/4	
Top 10 Finishes	0/4	
Top 20 Finishes	0/4	