

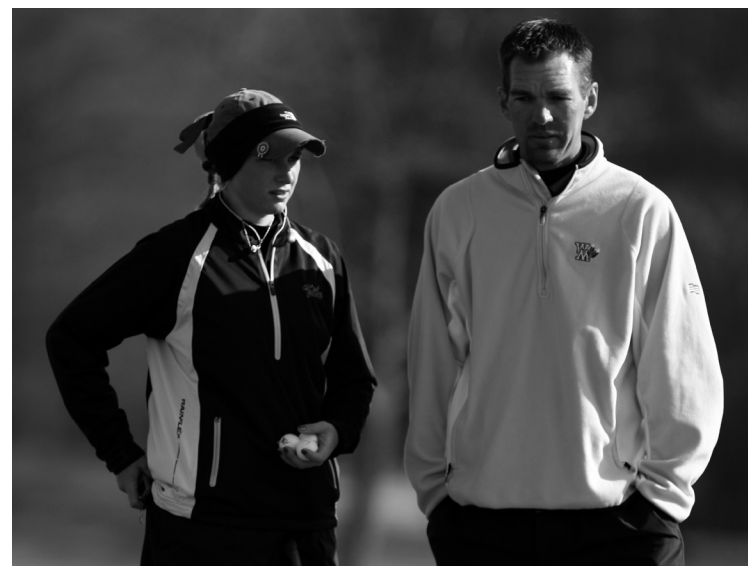
After a put, senior Ellie Costello watches her ball role towards the hole. Costello finished in a tie for 110th place at the First Market Bank Intercollegiate tournament. The team came in fifth place out of 22 teams at the March tournament.

Watching her ball fly through the air, freshman Kristen Hamel follows through her swing. Hamel was able to break a number of Tribe records including shooting a school-record 69 in the ECAC Championship game which also broke the College's freshman record.



Photos courtesy of Sports Information.

Before she takes her turn in a round of play, junior Morgan Stepanek consults with Director of Golf Jay Albaugh about the hole ahead of her. Director Albaugh was able to lead the women's golf team to the second 100-win season in history.



for first time since 2005, Tribe women take home TEAM WIN

The Women's Golf team epitomized a successful season with a fifth-place finish at the Colonial Athletic Association Golf Championship at Pine Mountain Georgia. A number of players achieved their best scores at this final tournament of the season. But the team worked hard throughout the season to be able to prove their athleticism at this final event.

The Tribe women began their season in a notable fashion in the first tournament of fall play at the Nittany Lion Invitational. This season-opener was won by the team by twelve strokes over Penn State; this victory was the first team win since 2005, and it gave the ladies the confidence and momentum to face the rest of season's difficulties. Junior Morgan Stepanek and freshman Caroline Sweet led the effort by tying for third place with scores of +9. Sophomores Katie Murphy, Sarah Whitney, and junior Brielle Paolini all rounded out the Tribe's individual scores with finishes in ninth, 37th and 36th places respectively.

Not only was this team victory particularly inspiring for the team, but their win also broke a number of the College's own records. The team total of +45 broke the previous 54-hole record by 13 strokes. The first-round play record was also broke by Stepanek who became the first woman to break 70. Stepanek and Sweet also set the new 36-hole and 54-hole records.

However, the Nittany Lion was not the only victory for the Tribe women. After finishing fourth at a shortened Yale Intercollegiate tournament, the team hosted the ECAC Championships. The Tribe finished in seventh place overall, but freshman Kristen Hamel was able to make her mark in the Final Round with a fourth-place finish. The team went on to success at subsequent tournaments such as the Spider Invitational, the Kiawah Island Classic, and the First Market Bank Intercollegiate. In these matches, the Tribe team won a top-ten team finish a number of times.

All of this success ended in their team-total of +88 and a fifth-place win at the CAA Championship. Whitney led the Tribe team with a top-notch personal performance. She placed highest of all the Tribe women by tying for fifth place. Sweet and Stepanek also did well by placing 15th and 18th respectively. Whitney went on to finished her 2008-2009 season with a second trip to the U.S. Women's Public Links Championship.

So, although a number of Tribe women were able to set new records and lead their teammates in victory, the wins of the Women's Golf Team were collective victories. Especially with the first-place opening season team win, the women's golf season was one of marked by growth and inspiring success.

>Meredith Howard

team



Front Row: Kristine Rohrbaugh, Sarah Whitney, Brielle Paolini, Morgan Stepanek, Megan Smith, Kelsey Conway. Back Row: Asst. Coach Pete Gyscek, Avi Hockfield, Caroline Sweet, Kristen Hamel, Katie Murphy, Ellie Costello, Director of Golf Jay Albaugh.

<SCOREBOARD>

W&M 1ST OF 15 > NITTANY LION INVITATIONAL W&M 4TH OF 19 > YALE INTERCOLLEGIATE W&M 7TH OF 17 > ECAC CHAMPIONSHIP
W&M 18TH OF 43 > KIAWAH ISLAND CLASSIC W&M 5TH OF 22 > FIRST MARKET BANK INTERCOLLEGIATE

W&M 6TH OF 14 > SPIDER INVITATIONAL W&M 10TH OF 20 > LADY PIRATE INTERCOLLEGIATE
W&M 3RD OF 15 > HOYA INVITATIONAL W&M 5TH OF 10 > 76 CAA CHAMPIONSHIP