

Barmettler's enduring passion

BY KENNEDY MARTIN
Staff Writer

Senior Nicolle Barmettler's love for golf has not always been present. It took a lot of time and practice to get to where she is now.

Consistent is the word golf head coach Clint Fitzpatrick used to describe Barmettler's game. Last weekend, she proved that when she took home first-place honors for the third time in her career and second time this season.

Barmettler finished with a score of 146, which was two strokes better than second place. On day one, she tied her personal-low single round score of 72 and came within one stroke of her previous-best tournament score. These numbers came during University of Missouri-St. Louis' Triton Invitational where Truman State University placed fourth out of 14 teams with a two-day score of 649.

It was during her four years of high school golf when her love for the game and her skill drastically took off. Encouraged by her father to play golf, Barmettler began playing as a little girl in her hometown of Park City, Utah. It was not until she and her family moved to Omaha, Nebraska, and Barmettler began high school that she became serious about the game. Her team placed second at the state tournament during program's first year and Barmettler, a freshman at the time, fell in love.

After that, golf became addicting for Barmettler because of the constant internal motivation to improve. It was her sophomore year of high school, though, when she realized she couldn't stop playing the game. However, Barmettler had to take this second year off to recover from back surgery to correct scoliosis.

"Golf was pretty much all I thought about while recovering from surgery," Barmettler said. "And I am so grateful that I was still able to play after that. My team won the state championship that year, and as I was watching and unable to play, I realized how passionate I was about golf and that I never wanted to stop playing."

Even though her love for golf is strong, she admits it can be hard at times, but that's why she calls the game her magnet.

"Golf can be so frustrating because I can't always control what happens during a round," Barmettler said. "I can make great ball contact the whole round



Submitted Photos

Senior Nicolle Barmettler poses after winning University of Missouri-St. Louis' Triton Invitational. The Utah native started playing golf in high school and became addicted to it, resulting in her joining and leading the Bulldogs.

and still not score well. No matter what, there is always room for improvement. No matter how well I play, I can almost always think of a few putts that I could have made or a bad drive that led to a bogie. That's what always keeps me coming back for more."

This magnetic force drove her to Truman, where her sister was attending school and playing for the golf team. Since she already knew the coach and a lot of the women on the team, she knew it was a program of great people that she would want to be a part of.

Now Barmettler has three first place finishes under her belt as a Bulldog. Going out with a bang for her senior year, she has placed top 5 in all tournaments but two, and in those two she took sixth place.

Fitzpatrick attributes Barmettler's and the team's success to senior leadership.

"Nicolle and the seniors ... they set the tone," Fitzpatrick said. "They know how to work hard, and they get along well together. They always root for each other."

Fellow senior Amanda Ressel, who came in 64th with a two-day score of 195, attested to this statement with her excitement for teammate Barmettler for taking first at the invitational. Ressel had nothing but kind words to say about her teammate and the leadership role Barmettler has grown into.

Ressel said Barmettler's attitude and example make a tremendous impact on the team. She said she is always the person who stays positive even when uncontrollable things like the weather are not in their favor. She said it's not just with golf though, it's in all aspects of her life, from golf to school to extracurriculars.

"She's the type of person who when you get to know her, you know she's go-

ing to make a difference in this world with her work ethic, compassion and integrity," Ressel said.

Barmettler said she is excited to finish her senior year with conference play around the corner. She said she has faith in her team's ability to do well at the conference tournament and make the regional tournament. She said though there is a lot of pressure to perform well, she and her team can only continue to work hard and stay focused.

"I am definitely going to miss golf," Barmettler said. "The past four years went by so fast, and they have been a rollercoaster of emotions, but I would not change anything. I am so grateful for the lifelong friendships I've made on this team, and I have learned so much about myself as an athlete and a person."

Stewart named outdoor athlete of week



Senior Sam Stewart releases the shot put during a throw. He has big conference goals in mind despite setting numerous personal records already.

BY BROOKE BAILEY
Staff Writer

Last week, Truman State University senior thrower Sam Stewart picked up his first GLVC Outdoor Field Athlete of the Week honor after winning the hammer throw and shot put events at the Central Methodist Invitational.

Stewart became the first Bulldog athlete to win this title since alumnus Dominic Kacich two years ago. He won the hammer throw by 1 inch at 162-2, but he had more breathing room during the shot put event at 49-3 3/4, winning by more than three feet. He was responsible for two of three Bulldog throwing victories, contributing to the men's first-place finish.

Stewart currently sits at seventh in the GLVC rankings for shot put at 49-3 3/4 and sixth in the hammer throw at 167 feet with his mark at the Central College Dutch Invitational.

Stewart said the field athlete of the week award came as bit of a shock because he was unaware he was nominated. He said it's an honor to even be considered, and winning has given him motivation moving forward in the season.

Leslie Hardesty, assistant track and field coach and throwing coach, said Stewart has been working on a new wind up in the hammer throw to generate more speed going into the first turn,

so she said the goal is to iron out those details in the next few weeks in preparation for conference.

Though Stewart has made improvements in shot put since last indoor season, Hardesty said he will still have to refine the timing of his release in the ring.

Hardesty said despite the bad weather and a few throwing event cancellations this spring, Stewart has been having a great outdoor season thus far.

"He has been throwing pretty consistently this season," Hardesty said. "We've had three meets so far, and he's had PR's in the shot put at two of them. He's only been able to throw hammer twice, but has started off right where he left off last year, so that's a positive."

Stewart said setting personal bests has been great, especially because he has been developing technique this season. He said he still has big goals in mind for the conference meet.

"Some goals are to maybe take top three in conference in hammer and maybe top five in shot put," Stewart said. "I think that would be great and get some good points for the team."

The Bulldogs compete today in Lawrence, Kansas, at the Kansas Relays. Stewart and the team will then have two more meets next week to improve their personal bests before the GLVC Championships in May.

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