

# BARRY GOLF TAKES ON NATIONALS

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Five Barry University teams are ranked within top five in the nation—two of them are the men's and women's golf teams. With the men's team ranked No. 3 and the women's team ranked No. 1 in the NCAA Division II Golfstat.com relative rankings, both teams are headed to the Sunshine State Conference (SSC) Championships with positive mindsets.

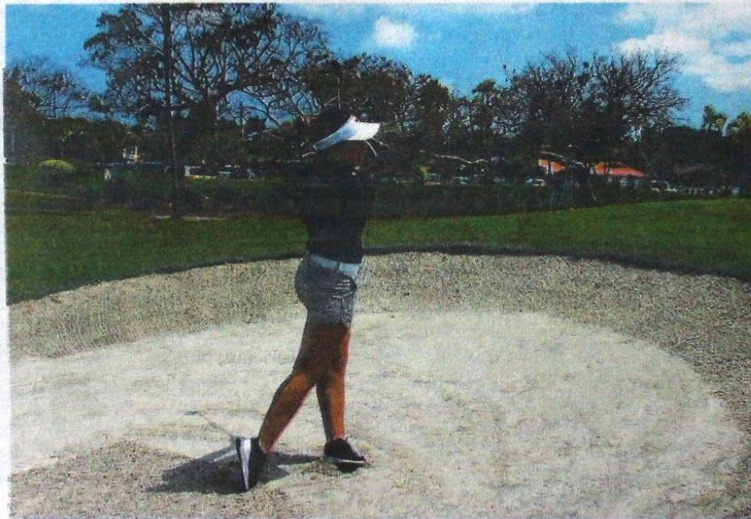
Although ranked No. 3 in the nation and having played in eight regular season tournaments thus far, the men haven't taken a win all season.

However, the losses haven't stopped them from scoring well and ranking within the top five of almost every tournament. But, will their losing streak of high scores keep them from winning the SSC, super regionals, or nationals?

"I think that the guys are starting to play a little bit better, and as a coach, you want your team peaking at the end of the season, not at the beginning," said Head Coach James Stobs. "We haven't come close to playing our best, not even individually. But we're starting to see some good numbers and we're starting to play better. Hopefully, we'll get in the winner's circle at conference and get rolling for regionals."

Stobs recalled Barry's 2007 season

when the team, like this season, did not win a single tournament, yet came out



Senior golfer Martina Bertuccioli is practicing in a sand trap. Photography by Anastasia Zharova

on top by winning their first NCAA Division II national title in Barry's school history. Will that be the case this season?

"We came in second place six times that year and we were in top five in the rankings going into nationals, and that last one was the only tournament we won. So, this team reminds me a little bit of those guys," said Stobs. "In the end, there's only one tournament that people

remember: the one when there's a ring ceremony and when names are put in the record book... and that's the national championship."

Golfer Eirik Groenhaug, senior entrepreneurship major, agrees with Stobs about the team not performing to the best of their abilities this season.

"We have high expectations for ourselves, and I think we know, individually, that we have good players. But, we just need to get everyone to be play their best all in one tournament... and if we do that, then we should be competing for the victory for sure," he said.

Since Groenhaug has been playing for Barry, the team has won two national championships (2013 and 2014) and says that he's ready to get back to that.

"In my years at Barry, I think the chemistry we have as a team now is better than it has ever been. Everyone is practicing a lot and putting in the work... so that part isn't a

been working hard and putting in a lot of time to achieve their successes.

The women's team placed second out of 15 teams at their last regular season tournament hosted at our home Don Shula's Golf Club. The team fell to Rollins College by 10 strokes.

Although placing second as a team, sophomore Tilda Larsson was the individual winner for Barry and even broke a school record with her third tournament title of the season.

Larsson has finished within the top 10 in every regular season tournament and with seven top five finishes this season.

"It's a lot of fun to win tournaments. It makes me motivated to practice even more. It's just fun to break records," she said. "We're a good team and we have a lot of good players. If everyone is performing their best, then we definitely have a high chance to win."

Senior golfer and graphic design major Martina Bertuccioli agrees with Larsson.

"We're really excited and anxious for what's next. We want to make it to nationals this year and get that ring."

Bertuccioli said that the team hasn't made it to nationals since her freshman year.

"Since we started really well from the beginning of the season and continue to work hard for the same goal, it really helps us get excited to know that we're all on the same page."

Overall, both teams are in high spirits after long hours of hard work and high rankings this season. But, will that be enough for our Bucs to make it through nationals? Follow along at gobarrybucs.com and Barry University Athletics Facebook page to stay updated on the championships and for the final results.

The men's team will begin the SSC championships on Sunday, April 23 in Melbourne, Fla. and the women's team on the same day in Winter Haven, Fla.

## GO BUCS!