

# THE PROGRAM



Men's History  
Women's History  
Athens Country Club  
The Phillips Center  
The Kermit Blosser Fund

# MEN'S GOLF HISTORY



Roger Pedigo

Ohio University's first golf team (1947) finished its initial season with a 6-5-1 record and a third-place finish in the Mid-American Conference. Coached by Kermit Blosser, the team had to pay its own green fees – 25 cents for nine holes at the Athens Country Club or 50 cents to play 18 at Logan – and supply its own clubs.

The Bobcats won their first MAC championship in 1951. Dave Rambo became Ohio's first medalist, Dow Finsterwald placed second and Earl Davis Jr. finished third as the team won the 36-hole tournament by 24 strokes.

Finsterwald turned pro in 1952 and went on to win 12 PGA events, including the 1958 PGA Championship when he came from three strokes down to defeat Sam Snead by posting a 67 in the final round. The tour's 1958 Player of the Year also played on the U.S. Ryder Cup teams in 1957, 1959, 1961 and 1963 and served as the PGA vice president from 1976-78.

In 1952, the Bobcats won the MAC title again with Roger Pedigo as conference medalist. Ohio then made it three straight in 1953.

Dick Small became the conference champion in 1954 as the Bobcats tied Kent State for the title. In 1955, Small shared

1958 Bobcats



Dow Finsterwald



medalist honors with teammate Dave Moore as Ohio captured its fifth consecutive MAC championship.

After finishing third in 1956, the Bobcats won the next five conference titles, from 1957-61. Ohio won every tournament in which it played in 1958 until finishing 17th at the NCAA Tournament. The run was also highlighted by individual champions Charles Vandlik (1959) and Bill Santor (1960).

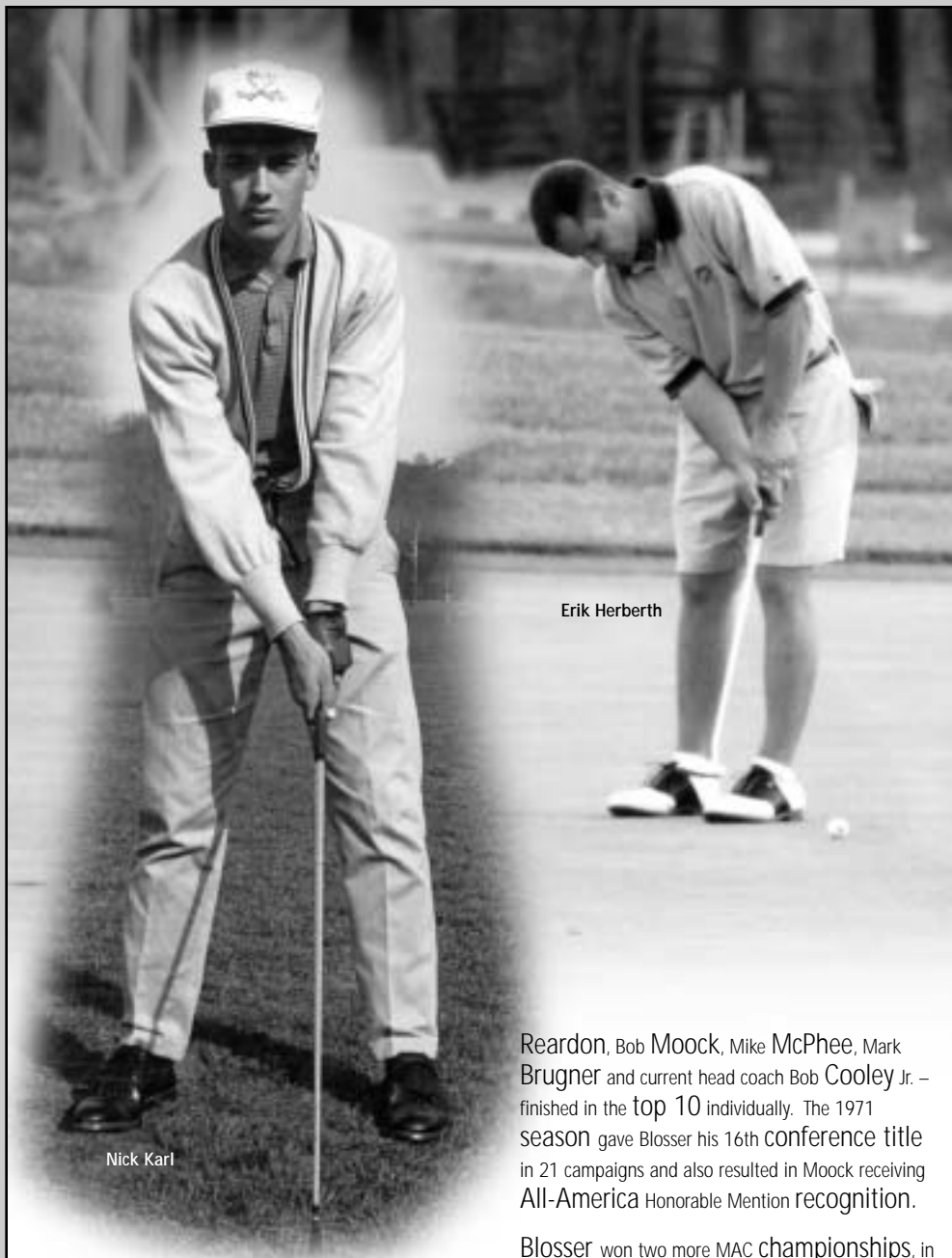


Dave Rambo

Larry Snyder



Dick Small



Nick Karl

Erik Herberth



Bob Cooley



Michael Walker



Terry Beard

Ohio's next championship season came in 1963 when Nick Karl became the Bobcats' eighth MAC medalist. Ohio shared the 1964 conference title with Toledo and then claimed its 13th MAC crown in 1965, led by two-time All-American Bobby Littler.

The Bobcats won again in 1967 with Terry Beard taking medalist honors at the Bowling Green Golf Course. In 1969, Ohio trailed by nine shots with nine holes left but edged Miami by three shots for the victory.

With the MAC Championships at the Athens County Club in 1971, the Bobcats dominated the field as all six Ohio golfers – Carlton White, Tim

Reardon, Bob Mook, Mike McPhee, Mark Brugner and current head coach Bob Cooley Jr. – finished in the top 10 individually. The 1971 season gave Blosser his 16th conference title in 21 campaigns and also resulted in Mook receiving All-America Honorable Mention recognition.

Blosser won two more MAC championships, in 1979 and 1980, before his retirement after the 1988 season at age 77.

Since Cooley took over the coaching helm, the Bobcats have produced three All-MAC performers: Michael Walker (1993), Erik Herberth (2002) and Ryan Siekmann (2005). Cooley won the MAC Coach-of-the-Year award in 2002 as Ohio placed second that year – its best finish since winning the MAC Tournament in 1980 – as Herberth went on to compete in the NCAA Central Regionals, finishing 12th and just two strokes shy of advancing to the NCAA Championships.

In 2004-05, three Bobcats finished with averages that ranked in the top six all-time as Siekmann boasted a 73.96 mark while Blake Russell and Mark Cimarolli both averaged 74.00 strokes per round.

# WOMEN'S GOLF HISTORY

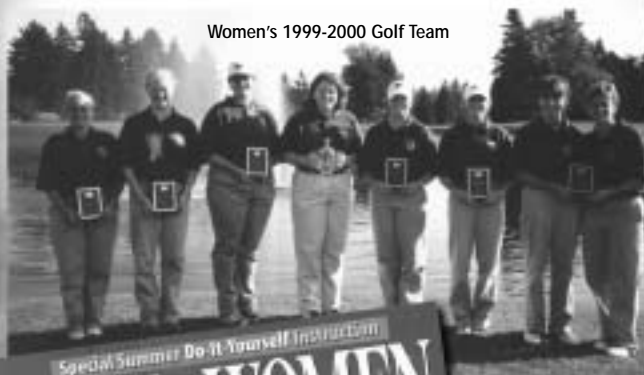
Candace Artz



Julie Sovesky



Women's 1999-2000 Golf Team



Julie Cole



Renee Powell

Although records are scarce, Ohio fielded a successful women's golf program throughout the 1960s and up until 1973, when the team finished third in the Midwest District. Ellen Gillespie served as the head coach until Joyce King took over the reins in 1966.

One of the standout Bobcat players from that early era was Renee Powell, who joined the LPGA Tour in 1967 and recorded six top-10 finishes and 27 top-20 results before retiring from competitive play in 1983. Regarded as one of the top golf teachers in the country at her family's Clearview Golf Club in East Canton, Ohio, and for organizing the Renee Powell Pro-Am to benefit the Special Olympics every year since 1985, she was featured on the cover of the May/June 1995 cover of Golf for Women magazine.

Although the women's golf program was dropped following her sophomore season in 1973, Julie Cole completed her bachelor's degree at Ohio in 1975 and played professionally on the

European, Asian and LPGA Tours before making teaching a career. Currently the Director of Instruction at the Dana Rader Golf School in Charlotte, N.C., she was named to the prestigious list of Golf for Women magazine's Top 50 Teachers in 2003 and was twice (1995 and 1999) voted by her peers as LPGA Southeast Section Teacher of the Year. Cole also has raised over half a million dollars for Hospice by creating the Julie Cole Charity Pro-Am in her hometown of Findlay, Ohio, and was honored on the cover of the July/August 1999 Golf for Women issue.

After a 23-year absence, women's golf again became a varsity sport during the 1996-97 school year with Nicole Hollingsworth as head coach.

Women's 1971 Golf Team



The following year, competing in their first MAC Championships, the Bobcats finished third.

After Ohio finished second in the 1999 MAC Tournament, Ann Slater became the program's mentor. The Bobcats won three tournaments – the Falcon Invitational, the Wolverine Invitational and the Springlake Classic – and placed second at the MAC Championships in 2000.

Ohio also won the Saluki Invitational in 2001 and posted two more runners-up finishes at the MAC Championships before Bob Cooley Jr. became the Interim Director of Golf overseeing both the Bobcat men's and women's golf programs in 2002. Since then, the women's team has won three more events, including two titles during the 2004-05 season.

# ATHENS COUNTRY CLUB



**T**he Athens Country Club is the home course for the Ohio golf program. Established in 1921, the course was designed by legendary course designer Donald Ross.

Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus played their first match together at the course. The date was September 25, 1958, and the event was Dow Finsterwald Day.

Finsterwald helped the Bobcats win their first Mid-American Conference title in 1951 and went on to a successful career on the PGA Tour. He won the 1958 PGA Championship and was named the tour's Player of the Year.

At the time of the historic best-ball exhibition match, Palmer was the defending Master's champion and the leading money-winner on the tour. Nicklaus, then known as Jackie, was an 18-year-old "blonde slugger from Ohio State," as the Athens Messenger described him.

Palmer and Nicklaus were paired up against Finsterwald and Howard Saunders, the six-time Southeastern Ohio Golfing Association champ.

"I was very impressed with Jack, even though he was quite young," Palmer would later say about



Former Bobcat golfer Dow Finsterwald (*left*) brought Arnold Palmer (*right*) to the Athens Country Club several times, including a legendary match with Jack Nicklaus in 1958.

his partner that day. "Obviously you could tell he was going to be a great player. I saw some things that he was going to have to correct in his golf swing. He did and he did them very quickly. And obviously he fulfilled the expectations people had about his game."

As Finsterwald struggled to get his game going on the front nine, Nicklaus and Palmer took an early lead with the youngster shooting a 35 at the turn and Palmer matching his age at the time with a 30. After recording a 37 on the front, Finsterwald recovered to post a 31 on the back nine to tie Nicklaus overall with a 68.

After carrying his twosome with a 33 on the front, Saunders struggled after the turn to finish with a 71. Palmer, meanwhile, recorded a 32 on the back nine to break the course record (a 63 by Finsterwald in 1953) with a 62, tying his personal all-time best mark and winning the friendly competition three-up.

"The first time I ever played with Arnold Palmer was at the Athens County Club in 1958," wrote Nicklaus to the club on Feb. 7, 1985, shortly after the clubhouse had been destroyed in a fire. "We were partners that day and had a lot of fun. Since then, I've always had especially nice memories of your club."

# THE PHILLIPS CENTER



LORI FRIEL



JASON KELLY



BECCA HUBBARD

## Academic Services

The Joan and Wallace Phillips Center, located on the third and fourth floors of Peden Tower, houses the offices of Academic Services and Compliance. With more than 10,000 square feet of space, the Phillips Center offers two state-of-the-art computer labs, a 42-seat classroom, 10 private tutoring rooms, a 40-seat sound-controlled auditorium, administrative offices and a reception area.

The staff of the Phillips Center coordinates a multitude of programs involving Ohio student-athletes with the Mid-American Conference and National Collegiate Athletics Association. They also serve as the official liaisons between the athletics department and all academic units on campus. With a goal of providing maximum support for all student-athletes, daily contact with faculty allows the staff to monitor those individuals with the greatest need for assistance.

The Phillips Center has six staff members plus numerous tutors in a variety of subjects. The Academic Services staff provides academic advising, career and resume counseling, and life skills programming. Director Lori Friel, entering her fifth year, came to Ohio from UNLV with 12 years of experience in the academic services field. Assistant Director Jason Kelly assumed his duties in the spring of 2004 following a one-year internship with the Phillips Center while Becca Hubbard joined the staff in August 2004 as the academic services coordinator.

## Special Programs

**NEW STUDENT-ATHLETE ORIENTATION CLASS:** This class is mandatory for all new student-athletes. This CHAMPS/Life Skills program focuses on the transition into college life and the challenges facing a Division I student-athlete.

**CAREER SYMPOSIUM:** Student-athletes have the opportunity to interact with executives—including many successful Ohio alumni—from a variety of fields. With the goal of preparing students for a transition into the workplace, presenters cover topics such as resume writing and interviewing techniques.

**STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAAC):** This group, composed of representatives from each team, serves as the voice of Ohio's student-athletes. The committee offers comments on NCAA proposals, coordinates community service projects and addresses issues and concerns of all student-athletes.



## Recent Highlights

Ohio has 202 student-athletes who hold an accumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better.

Student-athletes currently have an average accumulative grade point average of 2.898.

Of Ohio University's 16 varsity athletics teams, nine hold an accumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better.

Last academic year, Ohio placed 226 student-athletes on quarterly Dean's Lists.



Each spring, members of the Ohio men's and women's golf teams visit children at Morrison Elementary School to teach golf and life lessons.

## Compliance

Ohio University is committed to the principle of institutional control and operating its athletics program in a manner consistent with the letter and spirit of the National Collegiate Athletics Association, the Mid-American Conference and Ohio University regulations. Compliance is a wide-ranging area, covering all functions of the athletics department including – but not limited to – recruiting, financial aid, eligibility, playing seasons, awards, extra benefits and rules education.

As a member of the NCAA, Ohio is responsible for the actions of its student-athletes, staff, alumni, boosters and fans. The Compliance Office coordinates, monitors, and verifies adherence to all NCAA and MAC regulations. We are dedicated to providing educational programs and interpretive support to ensure that all individuals involved with our athletics program understand and meet Ohio's compliance expectations.

If you should ever have questions regarding NCAA, MAC, or Ohio rules and regulations, we encourage you to contact a member of the Compliance Office staff:

### JENNIFER STILES

Assistant Athletics Director  
(740) 593-9800  
stiles@ohio.edu



### CARLY TULLY

Compliance Coordinator  
(740) 593-0987  
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# Kermit Blosser Fund

THE PROGRAM



Many of Kermit Blosser's former golfers gathered for his retirement dinner on October 17, 1989.

**K**ermit Blosser – and the positive effects he has had on the many student-athletes who have been a part of the Ohio golf program – will be remembered long after he decides to step down. Although he retired as head coach in 1988, he remains an active participant in the Bobcat golf program.

Several former Ohio golfers have created The Kermit Blosser Fund as a perpetual remembrance to the legendary coach. Each year, through the fund, the Bobcat golf program and/or a student-athlete's education will be enhanced in the name of this true winner.

After claiming Ohio University's first national championship as a 191-pound wrestler in 1932 and playing end on the Bobcat football team that went 24-1-1 over a three-year stretch, Blosser returned from World War II as an assistant football coach in 1946. That same year, he was appointed Ohio's first golf coach.

Admitting he knew little about the game when he took over, Blosser learned quickly and became a scratch golfer himself while leading the Bobcats to an unprecedented run of MAC titles.

Blosser's Ohio teams captured 18 Mid-American Conference championships, including 10 titles in 11 seasons from 1951 to 1961... the sort of material of which legends are made. He was inducted into the Ohio Athletics Hall of Fame in 1966 and was named a charter member of the NCAA Golf Coaches Hall of Fame in 1980.

Many student-athletes influenced by Blosser and his championship golf program would differ when describing what were the most important factors in building such a successful program. They would, however, agree on one element that was common to all of Blosser's teams: discipline. The many faces of Blosser's discipline accompanied the Bobcat golfers through rigorous exercise programs, on long sessions at the practice tee, on snowy trips around the Athens Country Club and into the classroom for meetings on rules and strategy. That discipline led many of his pupils to successful careers after graduation.



The MAC Golf Coach-of-the-Year award was named after Kermit Blosser in 1989.

"In all my years of coaching and teaching, I have always found some good in every young person I've worked with," said Blosser. "It's been a memorable career. Ohio University has been my life for so long and I want to see the Bobcat golf program continue to progress."

Donations may be made to the Kermit Blosser Fund through The Ohio University Foundation, P.O. Box 689, Athens, Ohio 45701.

Ohio's former director of athletics Thomas Boeh (left) and president Dr. Robert Glidden (right) helped celebrate Kermit Blosser's 90th birthday in 2001.

