

PENN STATERS ON TOURS & AT THE OPEN



Penn State has long been a teeing ground which graduates use to begin their professional careers. Several alumni are or have pursued their dream of playing professional golf.

Matt Abbott, a 2001 graduate has seen great success since 2007 on the Gateway Tour and Minor League Tour. On the Gateway Tour he has earned over \$91,000 and made 32 of 40 cuts in the last two seasons. On the Minor League Tour, Abbott has earned numerous victories and over \$20,000 in earnings.

2005 Alum Mark Leon earned Canadian Tour Exempt status in the fall of 2007. After a complete season on tour, Leon finished high enough on the money list to gain exempt status for the 2009 season. Leon's top finish of the 2008 season was a second place finish. He advanced to the 2nd round of PGA Tour Q-School. Leon also spends time playing on the Great Lakes Tour.

Greg Pieczynski (2006) has spent much of his short professional career on the Gateway Tour. He won the 2008 Philadelphia Open as well as the Philadelphia PGA Assistants Championship. He finished seventh at the PGA National Assistants Championship.

Jimbo Fuller, a 2003 graduate, began his professional career in 2006 on the Grey Goose Gateway Tour and had a very successful season. Fuller won one tournament, made 14 of 22 cuts and earned over \$55,000. Last year, Fuller qualified for the second round of the PGA Tour Q-School.



Adam Decker, who graduated in 1996, is now the head coach for the University of Richmond, has played in PGA Tour & Nationwide Tour events including the 1998 Kemper Open, 2000 Florida Classic, 2001 Hershey Open, and the 2001 Greater Cleveland Open. He had also played on the former Tear Drop Tour, where he won twice, and on the Golden Bear Tour where he accumulated over \$45,000.

Dirk Ayers, a 1995 Alum, has been a regular on the Canadian Tour. He joined the tour in 1997 through Q-School and has been a member ever since. His best year on the Canadian Tour was in 2004 when he finished runner-up twice and finished ninth on the money list with over \$42,000 in earnings. Dirk has also played in several PGA Tour and Nationwide Tour events. He made the cut at the PGA Tour's Canadian Open in 2004, and played the B.C. Open in 1998. His Nationwide Tour experiences include the 1996 Buffalo Open, 2003 Alberta Calgary Classic, and 2004 Boise Open. Ayers has also competed on the Australasian PGA Tour.

1993 Alum, Jason Tyska perhaps turned in the most impressive performance by becoming the second Penn Stater to qualify for the U.S. Open and first to make the cut at the 1999 Open held in Pinehurst, North Carolina. Tyska went on to finish 53rd. He earned his way on to the 1999 Nationwide Tour by making it through all three stages of PGA Tour Q-School.



He went on to make the cut in 12 events where he had four top 10 finishes. In 2000, Tyska played in four Nationwide Tour events and qualified for the PGA Tour's Michelob Championship at Kingsmill.

Danny O'Neill is the only Penn Stater to qualify for the U.S. Open (1985) and U.S. Senior Open (2001). O'Neill is a 1972 graduate of Penn State and remains the only Penn Stater to earn All-America honors all four years of his career. In his career, O'Neill has played in the 1990 & 1996 Buffalo Open (Nationwide Tour). He qualified for the 2002 U.S. Senior PGA Tour by finished fourth at the final stage. In his rookie year on tour (2002), Danny played in 29 events and earned over \$216,000.

"Penn State has had its share of talented players through the years, and these guys have given it a shot," said Coach Nye. "The young men who

come into our program are here for education first, but they all have the tour as a goal or a dream. Some of these guys are close to making it happen. Some of them have given it their all and have now chosen other career paths. It is with great pride that we watch their efforts."

Many Penn State alumni work as golf professionals throughout the U.S. and some still compete as club professionals. These professionals, combined with the alumni trying to make the various tours, have helped Penn State touch the golf community and will help line the fairways for current and future Nittany Lion golfers.



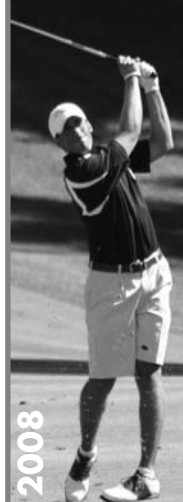
1990



1996



2001



2008

 **PENN STATE ON THE ROAD**

The Nittany Lions' tournament schedule takes them all over the United States, as well as out of the country. The depiction below shows where the Lions have traveled over the last 10+ years, without marking the events played close to home in their NCAA qualifying district from New York to Virginia. The Big Ten and NCAA logos designate the Championship sites where the Lions have competed.

"Our travel to places like Newport, Puerto Rico, Guadalajara, San Francisco, Houston, Kauai, and Denver, are just fantastic experiences for our players," Coach Nye says. "We find tremendous competition as well as the challenge of altering our play to the different types of courses, grasses, and factors like altitude or trade winds. Aside from the competition, we also try to find a little time to see a few sites and experience the culture of the areas we visit."



Penn State sitting beside the "Wicker Basket" on the 18th Hole at Merion Golf Club. The club will host the 2009 Walker Cup and 2013 U.S. Open.



Penn State visits the Monterey Peninsula and Pebble Beach's famed 18th while playing The Nelson at Stanford.

 Hawaii



The team enjoys the sun at the Princeville Makai Course high above Hanalei Bay in Kauai, Hawaii.

Guadalajara, Mexico 

Scott Phillis putting on the 17th at TPC Woodlands in Houston, Texas at the Golf Digest.



1949



1962



1973



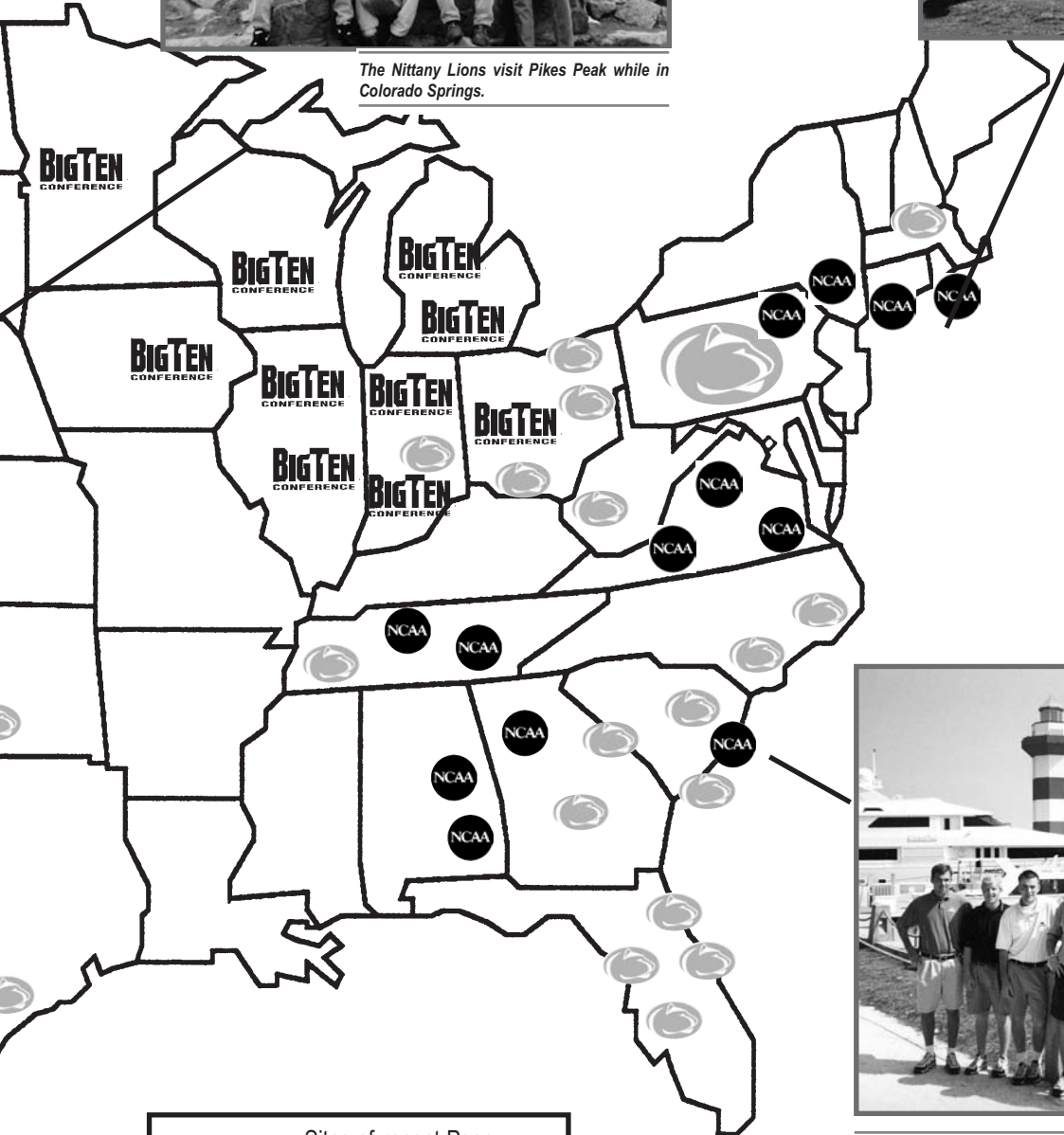
1977






The Nittany Lions visit Pikes Peak while in Colorado Springs.



Practicing at Newport Country Club for the Adams Cup, site of the 1995 U.S. Amateur won by Tiger Woods.



	Sites of recent Penn State Tournaments
	Sites of Big Ten Tournaments
	Sites of NCAA Championships



Penn State visits Harbor Town while playing at the 1998 NCAA East Regional

Puerto Rico   U.S. Virgin Islands



1990



1996



2001



2008