



# 1961 National Champions

**T**he 1961 men's golf season was supposed to be a year of rebuilding for Purdue. The Boilermakers were a team of all underclassmen, having lost nine letter-winners in the previous two years. Gone from those teams were veterans Gene Francis and John Konsek, who propelled the Boilermakers to three consecutive Big Ten titles and runner-up showings at the NCAA championships in 1959 and 1960.

After posting a regular-season mark of 24-7, the 1961 Boilermakers took fourth-place honors at the Big Ten Championships. Competition at the 1961 collegiate championship came next, hosted by Purdue on its North and South courses.

Purdue was never favored to do much at nationals. Many considered Houston the heavy favorite, winning five-straight crowns from 1955 to 1960 and being led by two-time individual champion Richard Crawford.

On the first day of competition, Purdue came out of the gate strong. Boilermaker Mark Darnell paved the way on the South Course by posting back-to-back 34's for a first round 68. He led Ohio State's Jack Nicklaus by a stroke.

The conditions were not ideal, with rain in the forecast and winds gusting upwards of 26 miles per hour, making the flatter North Course much more difficult. Only 15 golfers shot par or better, including two Boilermakers, Mark Darnell and Jerry Jackson. Ohio

State was the only university to match Purdue's feat of two men under par. With the steady play of Steve Wilkinson and James Farlander, the Boilermakers finished day one at the top of the leaderboard with a five-stroke advantage over Oklahoma State.

By the start of the second day, Houston—down eight strokes to the Boilermakers—was still thought by many to be the best team on the course, managing national titles by only a single stroke in both 1956 and 1957.

Darnell led the way into day two but slipped just slightly and posted a 73 to give him 141 for the championship. That was not quite good enough, with the more consistent Jack Nicklaus shooting a 70-70—140, and forcing Darnell to take a one-stroke loss as well as runner-up honors for low individual scorer.

As the end of the final day neared, Arizona State and Southern California charged up the ranks as the rest of the frontrunners fell back. Still, Purdue finished steady with rounds of 288 and 295. Heavily favored Houston collapsed, and the five-time national champs finished 26 strokes behind Purdue.

The Boilermakers held off the last of the late surges as Jackson finished in the top 10, and both Wilkinson and Farlander matched their day one efforts to secure the victory. The title, only the sixth for a Big Ten team, was the first NCAA National Championship for Purdue in any sport and only the second national title after men's basketball claimed the 1932 crown.

## 1961 NCAA Championships Team Results

Finish	Team	Total Score
1	<b>Purdue</b>	<b>584</b>
2	Arizona State	595
3	Southern California	596
4	Oklahoma State	597
5	Texas A&M	602
6	Michigan State	603
7	Arizona	604
T8	North Texas State	604
T8	Minnesota	607
10	Georgia	609
T11	Duke	610
T11	Houston	610
T11	Ohio State	610
14	Notre Dame	611
15	Florida	615
T16	Northwestern	617
T16	Stanford	617
18	Ohio	623
19	Ball State	628
20	Texas	630

## First Round Purdue Results

Individual	Score
Mark Darnell	34-34—68
Jerry Jackson	34-38—72
Steve Wilkinson	38-36—74
James Farlander	38-37—75
Will Templin	42-36—78

## Second Round Purdue Results

Individual	Score	Finish
Darnell	68-73—141	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Jackson	72-73—145	T 9 <sup>th</sup>
Wilkinson	74-74—148	T 24 <sup>th</sup>
Farlander	75-75—150	T 37 <sup>th</sup>
Templin	78-73—151	T 44 <sup>th</sup>



The 1961 Boilermakers: (back row, left to right) Coach Sam Voinoff, Joe Klein, Joe Kack, Steve Wilkinson, Mark Darnell (front row, left to right) Bill Templin, Keith Stevens, Jim Farlander, Don Straszheim, Jerry Jackson



A wall hanging honoring the 1961 Purdue men's golf team adorns the Dye Clubhouse at the Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex.