



Profiles

For the second straight year the Bobcats finished runner-up, and had three players inside the top 15.

MATY MONZINGO

| By Jordan Gass-Poore | Photos Ashley Haguewood |

Prepping for a golf tournament begins months in advance. “It isn’t just a week before thing.”

“AT THE COLLEGIATE LEVEL IT’S VERY HARD TO DO THIS, SO MUCH TIME AND EFFORT HAS TO BE PUT IN TO COME OUT ON TOP.”

Monzingo gets in the swing of things by sticking to a weekly schedule that includes time to practice golf, workout and rest. “To compete (at) a high level you must be willing to sacrifice a lot out of your schedule,” Monzingo said.

Repetition is key: hitting golf balls on the range, putting and working on other areas that need improvement have been keys to her success in the sport.

Monzingo was six years old when her dad Lynn, former assistant men’s golf coach at Oklahoma University, taught her to play. As a youth, she would spend her summers playing golf, eating lunch with friends and then playing more golf at Trophy Club Country Club in Trophy Club, Texas.

In high school, Monzingo sent numerous college golf coaches e-mails, in the hopes that they would either review her resume or watch her play and decide they wanted her on their team.

Head Texas State Women’s Golf Coach Mike Akers must have liked what he saw because Monzingo joined the university’s team in fall 2013.

Her initial reaction: “I was very excited and was ready to get to San Marcos and compete at the collegiate level.”

Since then, the team, comprised of four other players, has earned second place honors at the Sun Belt Conference tournament each of the past two years.

The team keeps its expectations high and is striving to compete in and win the national championship. “At the collegiate level it’s very hard to do this, so much time and effort has to be put in to come out on top,” Monzingo said. “The collegiate field is so competitive, but if we work hard and put low rounds together consistently we could possibly do it.”

That optimism carries over into Monzingo’s academic life, where missing class for tournaments may mean struggling to catch up with assignments. On the links, the struggle can be with Monzingo herself. “I have such high expectations for my golf game and when I don’t perform my mind gets in the way.”

Swing funks mean Monzingo needs to keep practicing – or take a break.

Before golf season begins the Texas State Women’s Golf team has an annual gathering on Lake McQueeney and participates in a friendly match against the university’s men’s golf team.

Monzingo’s ultimate goal is to be a professional golf player on the LPGA tour. To get there, she’d like to win U.S. and state amateur titles and qualify for the U.S. Women’s Open.

For now, she’s taking it one shot at a time.

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