

2005 MIAC Women's Golf Championship

St. Thomas holds on for 3-stroke win at MIAC Meet

Stillwater, Minn. (10/9/05) - St. Thomas held off a strong second-day charge by Gustavus to claim its fifth consecutive MIAC Women's Golf Championship. The two-day, 36-hole event concluded Sunday at StoneRidge GC in Stillwater.

The Tommies' No. 5 player, sophomore Katie Potts, was an unlikely hero as she helped UST (669) claim a three-stroke victory over the Gusties (672).

Gustavus used a closing 327 score -- which tied for the fifth-best round in the 17-year history of the event -- to trim a 16-stroke deficit to three.

It's the third time since 2001 that the Tommies have edged the Gusties for the conference championship by three or less strokes.

UST's fifth consecutive title is the fifth longest current team title streak in the conference after St. Thomas men's indoor track (21), Gustavus men's tennis (17), Gustavus women's tennis (14) and St. Thomas women's indoor track (six).

St. Ben's (716) held off St. Mary's (721) for third place.

Concordia (735), Carleton (756), Macalester (780), St. Olaf (788) and Augsburg (incomplete) rounded out the nine-team field.

Eight of the All-MIAC honorees (top-10 individual placing) are seniors.

The No. 8-ranked Tommies (329 on Saturday) started Sunday with a 16-stroke lead on No. 3-ranked Gustavus (345). But the Gusties turned on the heat as seniors Kelli Groff (77) of Bloomington Jefferson and Erin Schliep (81) of Rochester Century helped them shoot 327 and finish with a 672 score.

St. Thomas senior Maureen Hardwick of Warroad (76-85/161) won medalist honors by two strokes over Groff and Schliep. But the Tommies' decisive rounds Sunday came from Potts and senior Kerry Shea of Owatonna.

Potts, a Dubuque, Iowa native and UST's No. 5 player, opened with a 95 on Saturday but shot 84 on Sunday. That was crucial with three of the Toms' six players shooting 90 or higher on the last day. Shea shot 87 on Saturday but came back with an 81 on Sunday -- which tied for the day's second-low round and let her take fifth overall in the field of 48.

Hardwick had her fourth top-five career MIAC finish. She had placed first, fourth and second in her three previous MIAC Championship meets. Teammate Holly Noble of Owatonna also made All-MIAC as she tied for eighth at 171.

Potts and UST junior Tricia Nelson finished at 179 in a tie for 16th.

Three players won All-MIAC honors for the third time -- Groff and St. Ben's seniors Kaley Kosak of Grand Rapids and Megan Sand of Albany. St. Mary's senior Andrea Hanke of Janesville, Wis., had her second top-six individual finish.