

Florida State Women's Golf By The Numbers

SUGAR GROVE, Ill. (seminoles.com) – There are plenty of numbers that can be used to illustrate how well the No. 5-ranked Florida State women's golf team is playing heading into the 2017 NCAA Championship Finals at Rich Harvest Farms.

- * 1 – the school-record best national ranking held by the Seminoles earlier this season.
- 3.78 – the combined GPA of the Seminoles' starters in the 2017 NCAA Championship Finals during the spring of 2017
- 4 – the record number of Seminoles named to the All-ACC Team (Matilda Castren, Lydia Gumm, Morgane Metraux and Kim Metraux).
- 6 – the school-record number of tournament championships the Seminoles have won this season.
- 12 – the school-record consecutive number of years the Seminoles have played in the NCAA Tournament.
- 284.9 – the school-record and ACC-leading team stroke average for the Seminoles entering the 2017 NCAA Championship Finals.

Or, you can just look at the numbers on the golf bags of each of the Seminole players – 99, 100, 103, 104 and 106.

Florida State doesn't have the individual names of its players stitched into their golf bags. Instead, the bags are identified by where each Seminole golfer fits into the illustrious history of the Seminole program. In the case of the 2017 Seminoles, the numbers on the golf bags – beginning with 99 – identify the number of varsity letters earned since the first team members – Donna Crews and Donna Petrizzi – played in 1968.

"We needed a change in the program and the numbers allowed the players to feel they were part of something bigger than themselves," said Amy Bond, the 2017 ACC Coach of the Year. "We had been brainstorming for a while when 'Ducky' came up with a great idea, so I ran with it."

'Ducky' is Seminole assistant coach Robert Duck, who is in his sixth year as an assistant for the Seminoles' men's and women's programs. He says the idea was born out of his love for England's national cricket team.

"When a player plays for their country for the first time they become part of the legacy of that country," said Duck. "The number is symbolized on their shirt every time they play. I wanted to help create a sense of legacy for the players when they compete as a Florida State golfer."

The tradition began during the 2013 season and began with the number and the players' last name on their bag.

Carlton Kuhlo, No. 95, remembers the tradition well.

"It was really cool because all of the players we played against would immediately ask us about the number," said Kuhlo. "The number set us apart from golfers on other teams and helps us continue to embrace the history of the program."

Alex Milan, No. 97, feels the same way.

"I'm No. 97 and it's really awesome because I will always remember my number," said Milan. "It's still amazing to think that I am the 97th player to compete for the Florida State women's golf team."

One of the things Milan remembers the most is having to answer the questions on what the number meant.

"Players on other teams would ask what the number meant, and at first I would joke that it was my scoring average," Milan said. "When we explained what the number really meant, our competitors thought it was a really cool idea. I think the number became part of our identities as Florida State golfers. We all grew to feel that we were better representatives of our team because we were part of the history of the program. The number is a legacy that we are a part of and I am glad Coach Bond has continued it."

The numbers have been embraced by members of the current Seminoles' team.

"I think it's really cool because it's something that is totally unique to our program," said junior Kim Metraux. "The number represents more than just a name. It's a mark we'll leave forever on the program and is something that we can keep for the rest of our lives."

Bond, No. 61, who was named as one the top 50 players in ACC history following a sensational career as a Seminole, will lead Florida State into the NCAA Championship Finals beginning May 19 for the second consecutive year. She has led the Seminoles to a program-record six team championships, a school-record tying 10 top-three finishes and to two consecutive top-three finishes at the NCAA regional championships.

"I think it's a great tradition that we have started at Florida State," said Bond. "It's great for Florida State to be recognized as the only team in nation to have numbers instead of names on our bags. The numbers give our girls a sense of the history of our program and allow them to always be a part of our program."

If you are on the course in Sugar Grove this week, you can identify the Seminoles by their numbers: Matilda Castren is No. 99, Lydia Gumm is No. 100, Kim Metraux is No. 103, Morgane Metraux is No. 104 and Amanda Doherty is No. 106.

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