

QUEEN BEES Golf

“Know your environment, practice with a focus, and come to compete.” That’s the advice St. Ambrose women’s golf coach Mike Orfitelli gives to first-year golfers. Orfitelli’s third year of coaching golf in 2006–07 yielded a sixth consecutive Midwest Collegiate Conference title and a 22nd place finish at NAIA Nationals. The SAU program continues to foster a tradition of winning and golfers can expect a challenge.

“When you come to college, your focus needs to be on improving skills,” Orfitelli says. “If you want to get better, you need know what your weaknesses are and work on them.”

Orfitelli’s ideal golfer is an athlete who is coachable and willing to work hard. This desire to improve has led the SAU women to two regional titles in the past three years. Since the MCC is highly competitive, incoming golfers should expect to face some of the best competition nationwide.

Contact the coach

Mike Orfitelli
563/333-6228
OrfitelliMichaelA@sau.edu
www.sau.edu/athletics

St. Ambrose Admissions Office
518 West Locust Street
Davenport Iowa, 52803
563/333-6300
800/383-2627
admit@sau.edu
www.sau.edu/admissions

Athletic success

SAU has qualified for National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics nationals for the past five years. In the fall of 2007, the women shot a 680 in the MCC championship to nab their sixth straight title in as many years. The Queen Bees went on to shoot a 653 to claim the NAIA Region VII Championship as well. Last season, Nicole Keeney qualified for the NAIA National Tournament, shooting 317 to finish 21st out of a field of 120 golfers. The success of the women’s golf program has steadily increased over the past few years. Since 1996, the Bees have garnered three All-American honors.

The conference

St. Ambrose became a member in 2007 of the highly competitive Midwest Collegiate Conference, formerly the Midwest Classic Conference. The conference contains nine colleges scattered across the state of Iowa with one Wisconsin member. Each school in the conference is a four-year institution with enrollment between 500–3,900 students.

Midwest Collegiate Conference

St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa
Ashford University, Clinton, Iowa
Clarke College, Dubuque, Iowa
Grand View College, Des Moines, Iowa
Iowa Wesleyan College, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
Mount Mercy College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Viterbo University, LaCrosse, Wis.
Waldorf College, Forest City, Iowa
William Penn University, Oskaloosa, Iowa

Recent results

2003–04 MCC Champs; Region VII Champs; NAIA National Qualifier
2004–05 MCC Champs; Region VII Champs; NAIA National Qualifier
2005–06 MCC Champs; 3rd in Region VII; 20th of 23 teams at NAIA Nationals
2006-07 MCC Champs; 2nd in Region VII
2007-08 MCC Champs; 1st in Region VII

2005 Fall Results

St. Ambrose Triangular 1st 337
Augie Fall Classic 4th 333
Cropper-MMC Invite 2nd 319
Kohawk Fall Invite 4th 342
Wartburg Invite 4th 691
IWU Fall Golf Classic 12th 645
IWC Invitational 1st 332
Fighting Bee Classic 1st 327
MCC Championship 1st 690
Region VII Champ. 3rd 685
NAIA Nationals. 20th 1373

The coaching staff

Orfitelli enters his fourth season as SAU women's golf coach in the fall of 2008.

Orfitelli has been a part of St. Ambrose University athletics and the kinesiology department since 1977. He is a member of the SAU Athletic Hall of Fame and has served as the chair of the Department of Kinesiology for 16 years.

Orfitelli coached the SAU women's soccer team from its inception in 1994 through the 2000 season. He was named MCC Coach of the Year four times and led the women's soccer team to five conference titles. Orfitelli's success has translated from the soccer field to the golf course.

He was named the MCC Coach of the Year in 2007.

Expect Orfitelli to go the extra mile for visiting student-athletes conducting their college search. He has been known to personally lead tours of the campus and take the time to talk with each student individually to make sure "the shoe fits" before a college choice is made.

Academic success

Orfitelli searches for well-rounded student-athletes—both talented in the classroom and on the golf course. Academics haven't been a worry, as his golfers carried a 3.6 GPA throughout the season. The SAU women's golf team has turned out six NAIA Scholar Athletes in four years.

"You hope that you're not just bringing in a golfer without any academic skill, because that won't last," Orfitelli says. "The job at this school is to help individuals get better. You want to have an enjoyable time for the rest of your life while being a competitor."

Community service

Typically, the women's golf team will participate in four to five community service projects throughout the year. Projects have included a gift-giving program with SAU's neighborhood schools and providing lunch to the less fortunate at local shelters.

Facilities

Emeis Golf Course in Davenport serves as the Bees' home. Emeis has a full range, a bunkered practice green for sand shots, chipping and putting, and allows full access to the course for SAU golfers two days a week at no cost.

Financial aid

Partial scholarships not tied to academics and financial need are available.