

Devin Cherry sets school record in golf tournament

After a multiple knee ligament surgery in January 2009, sophomore Devin Cherry bounced back in the HBCU Golf Invitational to set a record and assisted the Rams to a fourth-place finish.



LATASHA MILES
SPORTS EDITOR

The criminal justice major from Charlotte won an individual medal, and his round of 68 gave him the lowest total in school history. Cherry shot four under par during the tournament at Browns Mill Golf Club in Atlanta, Nov. 1.

Of the eight-man roster, Cherry is the only dominant left-handed player on the team, and he became the first Ram from the men's golf team since Josh Vogler in 2006 to win a tournament.

Vogler's score was a 69, but Cherry overshadowed the previous mark by a difference of one point.

"The way I feel about winning was kind of an emotional thing for me," Cherry said.

"This is my first semester back at my full potential so to win a tournament outright, and set school history is kind of emotional because I was hurt and I couldn't perform."

Cherry's injury occurred during the Christmas holiday in 2008. The operation, which was a reconstructive knee surgery, came about after Cherry tore his anterior cruciate ligament, medial collateral ligament, and posterior cruciate ligament in his left knee.

The knee was replaced with the knee of a deceased 18-year old.

"It was bad," said Robert Bethea, the second year head coach of the Rams golf team.

"He's got another person's knee. He put a lot into it to get back. Devin has made himself a lot better."

The timetable for Cherry after his operation was for him to be on crutches for three to four weeks, but he cut that down to around two weeks.

Coach Bethea said that Cherry paid his dues, trained hard, and attended extensive therapy sessions and weight training every day.

"With the operation he had, he was supposed to be out for the season," Bethea said.

"He was able to get back early, and I was really surprised. He played through a lot of pain."

Cherry, who started playing golf at the age of five, did not take a medical redshirt last season.

He returned to the lineup for the Rams for two late tournaments in April and May.

"I wasn't recovered," Cherry said.

"I did not return to my full potential until July 2. I just sacrificed for my team so that we could place better in those two tournaments."

Led by Cherry's record-setting individual medal honors, which included six birdies and two bogeys, the Rams were able to knock off other MEAC competition Hampton, Florida A&M, and South Carolina State in the course of a team total of 317.

The Rams competed against 17 other schools and were just 15 strokes short off leader Jackson State's team total of 302 in their fourth-place finish.

COACH'S 'GAME BALL'

Awarded to Devin Cherry

LaTasha Miles
SPORTS EDITOR

Devin Cherry, from Charlotte is a sophomore on the Rams golf team. The former student of Independence High School is a dominate left-handed player. in his second year on the team. Rams head coach Robert Bethea has selected him as the recipient of the Coach's Game Ball.

It was Cherry's record-setting performance against 17 other universities in the HBCU Golf Invitational Nov. 1 that earned him this recognition.

Cherry set a school record shooting a low of 68, and helped the Rams secure a fourth-place finish in the tournament.

"Devin makes the rest of the team better," Bethea said.

"They try to play like him. He is a caliber player, and he puts a lot into the game.

Devin is a good ball striker.
He's a good student and knows a lot about the game."

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Intramural sports introduces women's flag football to WSSU

Corderius Cowans
REPORTER

After two years of attempting to establish an Intramural Women's Flag Football League, the Campus Recreation Program of Winston-Salem State has finally accomplished its goal.

"After enough participant interest we were able to get the league started," said Dash McNeal, director of intramural sports and recreation.

The women's league began last month and has three teams: 5 Star Chicks, Hot Divas, and Free Agents. Each team consists of nine to 10 players. The league plays Monday evenings at Civitan Park Field.

According to McNeal, the women's league does not differ from the men's league except for the number of teams. Both leagues follow the rules and regulations of the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association.

"The men's league gets to play more games than we do because they have more teams," said LaToya Mallard, a sophomore healthcare management major who plays for the Hot Divas.

WSSU has now joined other local universities that offer this intramural sport: High Point University, NC A&T, UNCG, and Wake Forest.

Because the league is a work in progress, WSSU does not compete against other university women's leagues.

"If there were more teams/players in our league then we could travel to play other teams like the men's league's teams do," McNeal said.

Mallard said that WSSU is helping eliminate the stigma of people who presume females are not capable of playing the game like males do.

"I think this [league] is a good opportunity to have fun, stay in shape, and meet new people," said Shanice Johnson, a senior mathematics education major who plays in the league.

"Since I already referee for the men's league, and I enjoy watching football, it's exciting for me."

The league is making efforts to increase the promotion of the aspiring coed league on campus -- beyond general campus advertisement-- through social networks such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter.

"As a former athlete, I know that sports empower our females here on campus to be more athletically active and it's great that women can enthusiastically compete in sports just as much as men do," said Whitney McCoy, SGA president.

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Nov. 19

The American Cancer Society sets aside the third Thursday of November to challenge people to stop using tobacco products