

Wildcat Golf at the University Club of Kentucky

Spring is the Season for Swing



By Kristina Pickrell

Mouths drop when Brian Craig takes prospective student-athletes to the University Club of Kentucky. Craig, coach for the UK men's golf team, said, "I think they are most impressed at the immaculate condition of the courses, the quality of our team practice area and the fact that there are 36 holes available to play. Golf facilities in general are very important when it comes time for a prospective student-athlete to decide where he will attend school. The University Club is a wonderful asset

that we are very proud to show off in the recruiting process."

Stephanie Martin, coach for the UK women's golf team, said the University Club will host the 2003 Women's Southeastern Conference Championship in April. "A lot of the members will volunteer at the tournament," said Martin. They will be spotters, shuttle drivers and work the registration desk.

The UK men's and women's golf teams have been using the University Club as a practice and game facility since the fall of 2001. Craig said, "It's a great place for us. The staff has been very supportive of our

team. The practice facility is separate from the two courses so we don't get in the way of members."

Craig said the men's golf team will host two clinics at the University Club in June. The clinics will cover every aspect of the game including full swing with a video analysis, putting, chipping, pitching, course management and rules/etiquette.

With over a dozen lakes, ponds and streams, the picturesque terrain is a special feature of the University Club. According to Craig, "It is a beautiful property that is isolated from the noise of the city." Situated on 300 acres of Lexington countryside the club is com-

prised of two 18-hole courses, each approximately 7000 yards in length.

UK graduate Drew Rogers '91, an architect for Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest and Associates, helped renovate the Big Blue course. In the May 2002 issue of *Golf Course News*, Rogers said, a lot of vegetation was removed from the site to expose a "more typical open Kentucky rolling, horse farm-type of landscape."

Women's golf coach Martin said, "There is a good variation between the Big Blue and Wildcat courses. Those with low handicaps appreciate Big Blue more, while beginners enjoy Wildcat."

But beautiful terrain isn't all the University Club has to offer. Its 20-acre practice facility features multiple target greens, a practice pitching and bunker area and two putting greens. A PGA Professional and the golf operations staff are on hand for training and instruction.

The Fayette County UK Alumni Club, along with the UK Alumni Association, hosted a tournament at the University Club last

summer to raise money for scholarships. Lisa Atkinson, associate director of the UK Alumni Association, said, "The tournament was wonderful. The staff far exceeded our needs." Colleges also have used the club for tournaments.

Jeff Robinson, sales manager for the University Club, said, "Our members have really enjoyed the variety of golf, the quality of our conditions, and the wide array of both golf and non-golf events that they can partici-

pate in. It is really a club that can be enjoyed by the whole family."

From corporate to local and regional, there are several different types of memberships sure to fit anyone's needs. And while the club caters to fans, friends, and alumni, folks are not required to be UK alums in order to become members. For more information, call 877-381-UKUK or visit www.univeristyclubky.com.

The UK/Nike Junior Resident Camp for boys and girls ages 10 – 18 will be June 22 – 26. The camp will be staffed with college coaches as instructors and UK golf team members as counselors. Participants will use the facilities at the University Club all week and stay in the dorms on UK's campus.

June 28 – 29 is the UK/Nike parent-child Golf School. Instruction will take place in the mornings, followed by a fun parent-child format of on course play in the afternoon. Craig said, "This is a great opportunity for a parent and child to have a memorable weekend together at UK." Participants can register for both camps by calling 800-645-3226. For more information, visit www.ukathletics.com and click on "Camps."

