

### News Letter Article

I am now almost half way through my final year of my golf scholarship at Western New Mexico University. How time has flown in since I first left Scotland back in August 2006. This year our squad has been revamped with more European flair in a bid to regain our conference and regional titles. Our team now has 2 Scots, 2 Englishmen including a former British Universities Champion, a Swede, a Norwegian, a Korean, 2 New Mexicans and a Montanan. As you can imagine there is often a lot of things lost in translation even between us Brits. Although it does make for some good banter between us and brings us together as a team.

On the golf front we have managed to keep our key players from last season and the year of college golf tournament experience for the newer boys will definitely put us in good stead come our main season in the Spring. Our Fall season was hit or miss to be honest. Our first tournament in Colorado was largely snowed out leaving us a little short of competitive practice. We headed to Austin, TX the following week to play on a Champions Tour venue at Dominion Hills that was long and remarkably tight in places. Albeit seriously low on confidence after some swing issues I managed to nurse the ball in play for a 12<sup>th</sup> place finish in a very competitive field of 125. Our previous performances had gained us an invite to large division 1 tournament in which we competed against the biggest colleges in the western half of the US. Being the only small school there we were looked down at in many ways and although we never played great by any means we manage to defeat multiple schools and cause a bit little of a stir amongst the big boys.

My academics continue to be going strong although the more time consuming and difficult subjects are putting a little more strain on everything else but at the end of the day it is what I'm here for. Probably the most stressful thing of all right now is not golf for a change, but deciding where my future lies. My coach and my academic advisor have both given me valuable input and information that I need in order to consider continuing my education in the US or elsewhere.

I am sure you will see me on the putting green or up on the practice ground when I return home for Christmas. I look forward to seeing the developments that have been made with the clubhouse also. The waterproofs and thermals have already been dusted off in preparation for some lovely December weather I expect to experience!

Scott Crichton