

sports

Sophie Hemleben talks hopes for senior season

JORDANN LOPATA
Sports Editor

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, all sports at Ashland University have been postponed until the spring season. The GLIAC in May decided this was the best way in order to remain competitive.

Senior golfer Sophia Hemleben reflected on what she hopes for her senior season, and the changes that have been made for their protection from the pandemic.

Throughout her time here at AU, Sophie has been a big asset to the women's golf team. Last year, during spring break the team traveled to Daytona Beach, Florida and Hemleben concluded her play tying for 27th place individually.

Overall, last fall and spring combined, she averaged a season round of 77.50, this score was ranked fifth in the conference, and ninth best in AU women's golf team history. In April these achievements led Sophie to receiving a first team all GLIAC honor.

In the other seven tournaments that the Eagles played last year, Sophie was a top 10 individual, placed four times and finished second in the season opening Michael Corbett Fall classic tournament. Hemleben is also a Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) All-American Scholar and a member of the GLIAC all academic excellence team.

With tournaments not happening at the moment, Hemleben and the rest of the women's golf team have continued to practice and be ready for a spring season.

"We are having qualifiers each week to determine who will travel for spring break."

The golf team is small, and with

the weather being nice social distancing has been fairly easy to adhere to on the course.

"I'm sure once winter comes and we are in the facility we will have less space and need to break up into smaller groups," Hemleben said.

Whether they are in the weight room or practicing their skills on the course, the golf team is motivated for a successful spring season.

"I was sad that there isn't a fall season but I was able to add more courses so I could have an easier load in the spring if we do have a season. I am motivated right now to play well for spring break and travel hopefully then," she said.

While covid has affected many teams in negative and positive ways, the golf team will be ready to play if the GLIAC allows them to in the spring.

Sophie also reflects on how she is staying motivated as a senior, if she doesn't get her last chance to play for AU.

"I am motivated by pushing my teammates to build a better team after I graduate so that they can compete and represent Ashland," she said.

The women's golf team has a reputation to uphold and Hemleben hopes that even if she cannot have a season in the spring, she knows that her team will succeed.

So, with covid or not, the AU women's golf team will be ready to compete.



Photo retrieved from: goashlandeagles.com

Hemleben pictured above

Important changes made for intramural sports to be back at the rec center

MASON JONES
reporter

Although initially not considered for the fall semester, intramural sports at the Ashland University Recreation Center will begin play on Oct. 4 with coronavirus friendly activity offerings.

With pandemic guidelines in full-swing, the NCAA has prohibited the majority of colleges from athletic play during the fall season. While competitive sports are cancelled, the rec center has found a way to allow intramural sports to be played safely.

"We definitely had to be creative in what type of sports we are offering the students," rec center programs intern Brittany Close said.

"We can't do full team sports at the moment since that's close contact, so we had to look into other options that we haven't always done in the past or done before. Students can still compete against each other and get the offerings of the programming that we do, just in a different format."

Close has worked at the rec center for several years and understands the difficulty of planning intramural sports seasons. This year, she says it was harder than ever.

"It's a lot of individual competition, but it's still competing against others for an Intramural t-shirt as we always have done, just in smaller one-on-one games," she said.

"We still wanted to have the programming for the students on campus so that it can help to make this semester as normal as possible just in a more creative way. It was a really nice experience to be able to help the campus in providing students with this opportunity, with all the regulations in place."

Popular intramural sports, such as sand volleyball, basketball and flag football had to be removed from the program this year due to COVID guidelines. Players constantly touching equipment would make sanitization of areas

extremely hard and make games cumbersome.

With the new sports that are being offered, several steps have been taken in order to ensure the players' health and safety are protected.

"For the intramural sports that we are providing, we are requiring students to wear a mask as most of these sports don't require heavy physical endurance, such as the wiffle ball home run derby we held earlier where students wore masks the entire time," rec center programs intern Kimberly Gayhardt said.

"While most sports will take place outside, we do have permission to move inside the rec, where we can use the basketball courts and we can move the ping-pong tables aside so we can continue our activities".

While almost all guidelines are in place, only one guideline is an exception, and that is the amount of people able to compete in intramural sports.

"For all of the sports we are offering, there's not necessarily a limit to how many people can join, except for Esports, where the maximum number of people able to participate is around 30 people, because of the capacity of the library's basement where Esports is played," Gayhardt said. "But since the campus wide scavenger hunt is the only other thing that involves multiple people, we are making it so people will work in groups of five to ten instead of multiple people together in order to ensure the guidelines are in effect".

While the changes to intramurals is drastic, it should not stop people from having fun and taking a load off from the stress of school work.

The AU intramural schedule is online at the AU website as intramurals are different this year, but they are still in full-swing in spirit!

Intramural Schedule Fall 2020



Sport	Registration Deadline	Leagues Available	League Play
Iron Eagle Marathon	Nov. 15th @ 11:59pm	Open	Log hours until Nov 22nd
Cornhole	Oct. 4th @ 11:59pm	Singles or Doubles	Oct. 6th - Oct 30th
Disc Golf	Oct. 4th @ 11:59pm	Open Singles	Oct. 13th - Oct 30th
Trivia	11:00am the day of competition	Open	Oct 13th, Nov 10th, & Dec 8th
Esports Super Smash Bros	Oct. 13th @ 11:59pm	Open	Oct. 14th @ 7:00pm
Scavenger Hunt	Oct 15th @ 11:59pm	Floor Competition	Oct. 16th - Oct 18th
3 - Point Shoot-out	Oct. 21st @ 11:59pm	Men's Competitive & Recreational Women's Competitive & Recreational	Oct. 23rd
Table Tennis	Nov. 1st @ 11:59pm	Open Singles	Nov. 3rd - Nov 20th

Sign up through www.imleagues.com using your AU email

419.289.5440 | recservices@ashland.edu | www.ashland.edu/rec