

## 2007-08 Women's Golf Season Preview

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**W**hen Head Coach Debbie Dillman looks over the roster for the 2007-08 Florida State women's golf team, she can't help but smile. As she continues to look at the list of names in front of her, that smile continues to grow with each name she reads.

And what's not to smile about — she has one of the nation's top players and a two-time All-America in Caroline Westrup as her No. 1 golfer, two of her most experienced players returning for their senior seasons in Whitney Brummett and Whitney Wright and three women who have enjoyed playing time in the Seminoles' line up during their careers in Lauren Cousart, Lacey Agnew and Erica Gonzalez who will join forces and form a solid base for what is sure to be one of Florida State's most exciting seasons under Dillman.

"This is a year we have been looking forward to," said Dillman. "Everybody knows how good and how much of a leader Caroline will be. We are expecting big things and even lower numbers from her this season because she just keeps getting better. The

Whitney's are seniors and have been building to their senior years since their arrival at Florida State as freshman. Lauren showed us what her capabilities were at the end of last season and we know she is ready to play well. Both Lacey and Erica have been in our program for a couple of years now and they know what is expected of them. And we are really excited about Macarena Silva because she gives us another player who can shoot low scores and help us move up in the national rankings."

If this is a year Dillman has been planning for and looking forward to, the ACC and the nation will fear the spear in 2007-08 because simply reaching the NCAA Regionals and Championship finals won't do this year. This is the year for the Florida State women's golf team to take its place among the elite in college golf and set a standard for years to come on the golf courses in Tallahassee and across the nation.

Westrup (Ahus, Sweden) is in her third season as a member of the Seminole women's golf team and is already considered to be one of the greatest players in the history of the program. Her list of honors reads brighter and longer than most golfers' resumes who have flourished in four years of college golf. She is a two-time All-America First-Team and All-ACC selection and is the first golfer in school history to earn All-America First-Team honors twice during her career, and the first golfer in school history to earn All-ACC honors during the first two years of her career. She has earned All-ACC honors during both her freshman and sophomore seasons to become the first Seminole women's golfer to have earned all-conference honors during her first two seasons as a collegian. Westrup won the individual title at the Women's World Amateur Championship in South Africa as she led Sweden to a second place finish in the team standings at the 2006 World Amateur Championships. She has earned 12 career top-five individual finishes and finished in a tie for 11th place at the NCAA Division I Women's Golf Championship at LPGA International in Daytona Beach, Fla. Her finish in the 2007 national championship ranks as the highest finish for a Seminole individual in the NCAA Championship.

Westrup is also an academic standout with a 4.0 grade point average during the spring of 2006 and 2007 and Dean's List honors (3.5 gpa) or better during the fall of 2006.

"Caroline is really head and shoulders above anybody who has come through this program," said Dillman. "She will go down as one of the greatest golfers in ACC history when her

career is over. I'm looking forward to working with her for the remainder of her career at Florida State because there is no limit to the heights she can achieve as a golfer and a person. She is never satisfied and has the most incredible drive to succeed of any player that I have ever been around. The rest of the country has only seen a glimpse of the things she can do on a golf course."

Since the arrival of juniors Whitney Brummett and Whitney Wright at Florida State during the fall of 2004, the Seminoles have won three tournament championships with both or at least one the Whitney's in the starting lineup. The fall 2006 and spring 2007 seasons were especially prosperous with team championship trophies from the Cougar Classic and Chrysler Challenge now stored in the Seminoles' trophy case in Tallahassee. The pair helped Florida State earn six top-10 team finishes this year alone.

The pair has combined to play in 65 events, five ACC Championships, three NCAA Regional Championships and one NCAA Championship final. They have played on nearly every surface, in just about every weather condition imaginable and have won individual and team championships against the toughest competition in the country.

And now they are both seniors.

Brummett (Eureka, Mo.) is a four-year starter who will challenge for All-ACC honors as a senior in 2007-08. She is experienced — she has played in 29 of 30 events during her varsity career — and is one of the most competitive players on the Seminoles' roster. As one of two seniors in the Seminoles' starting line-up she has played in one NCAA Championship, two NCAA Regionals and three ACC Championships during her career. She has earned four individual top-10 finishes, has shot her career-best single-round score of 70 three times and averages 75.00 strokes per round in two NCAA Regional appearances as compared to 77.41 strokes per round in the 27 other events during her career. She helped the Seminoles to a tie for 16th place finish at the NCAA Championship in 2005.

Maybe the best thing about Brummett is that her scoring average has decreased during each of her years at Florida State. She played the best golf of her career during her junior season as she finished second on the team with her career-low stroke average.

"Whitney is really looking forward to her senior season," said Dillman. "She is one of our hardest workers and has really prepared herself for this year. She is a leader both on and off the course and sets the tone for many



Caroline Westrup

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of the players on our team. Her hard work will bring her the results she wants this season and her success will help determine how high we can climb in the national rankings during the year. It's going to be fun to watch Whitney play well and achieve success throughout the fall and spring seasons."

Wright (Rockingham, N.C.) played the best golf of her collegiate career as a sophomore and was one of the Seminoles' brightest stars in post-season play at the end of the 2006-07 season. It was Wright's play during the spring of 2007 that cemented her name on the Seminoles' line-up card for her senior season. With 26 events played during the first three years of her career, she is the second most experienced player on the Seminoles' roster behind Whitney Brummett's 29 events played. Wright played in a career-high seven events during the spring of 2007 and helped lead Florida State to a third place finish at the ACC Championship and into the NCAA East Regional Championship for the second year in a row. She played the best golf of her career at the NCAA East Regional as she finished with the second-best tournament score of her career (226) and the second best scored vs. par of her career (+10). Wright's best round of the regional — a two-over par 74 — came as Florida State attempted to work its way up the team standings and into a qualifying spot in the NCAA finals.

"As we begin the 2007-08 season, Whitney is the golfer on our team who I am the most excited about," said Dillman. "Her improvement last spring and her play in the ACC and regional championships really rubbed off on her teammates. She needs to keep up the level of play and consistency that she achieved in helping us play well in the postseason. If she can do that, we can be an even better team and move up even higher in the national rankings."

Cousart (Athens, Ga.) was another player who cemented her status in the Seminoles' starting line-up during the later part of her sophomore season. She showed glimpses of how bright her future as a Seminole really is during the second half of the 2006-07 season.

Cousart played as a member of the Seminoles' starting line-up in each of the last six events of the spring 2007 season including the ACC Championship and the NCAA East Regional. She helped the Seminoles to the championship of the Cougar Classic during the fall of 2006 with career-best scores for 36 holes (151), tournament scores (224) and tournament score vs. par (+8) and earned the best finish of her career (tied for seventh) at the spring 2007 Florida State hosted Chrysler Challenge. Cousart played well in the postseason as she finished in a tie for 15th place in the spring 2007 ACC Championship. Her play in her first career ACC Championship was highlighted by identical scores of 76 in the

second and third rounds to help her to the second top 15 finish of her career. She nearly helped the Seminoles qualify for the NCAA Championship finals as she played well in the first regional championship of her career as she carded a postseason career-best of 75 in the first round of the regional to help the Seminoles to a tie for 12th in the team standings after the first 18 holes.

"Lauren is another golfer we as coaches and the players on our team are really looking forward to watching blossom into a good golfer this year," said Dillman. "She steadily improved in all facets of her skill set to the point where she was on top of her game late in the season when we needed her to play well. Her play helped us finish well in the ACC Championship and allowed us to get to the cusp of qualifying for nationals. Her continued improvement is key to our success this year."

Agnew (Jonesboro, Ga.) and Gonzalez (Davie, Fla.) will challenge for the fifth spot in the line-up with both having the ability to play up and help the team in higher positions during the season. Both Agnew (in the spring 2007 Chrysler Challenge) and Gonzalez (in the fall 2006 Cougar Classic) helped the Seminoles win team championships during in 2006-07 and displayed the ability to impact players at the Division I level.

Agnew is one of the rising Seminole stars who has a very bright future ahead of her who played in three events as a member of the Seminoles' starting line-up as a freshman. She earned the first top-10 finish of her career with a sixth place standing at the spring 2007 Chrysler Challenge hosted by Florida State. Agnew carded career-best scores for single-round (73 in the first round), 36-holes (149) and three-round tournament (228) while earning the best finish (sixth) and first top-10 placing of her career in the Chrysler Challenge and was in first place in the event (one place ahead of All-American Caroline Westrup) after carding her career-low of 73 in the first round. She also helped the Seminoles to an eighth place finish in the Lady Gator Invitational and was Florida State's second highest individual finisher at the Northrop Grumman Challenge.

"Lacey has a great chance to earn her way into the starting line-up as a sophomore," said Dillman. "She played well in our tournament and should compete as one of our top players. Her future is bright and she is a learner who I am hoping will do great things for us this year."

Gonzalez, one of four juniors on the roster, has played in five varsity events during her career and has the intense desire to become a regular member of the Seminoles' line-up. She played in a single-season career-high three tournaments during the spring of 2007 as she earned her way into the Seminoles' starting line-up at the season-opening Northrop Grumman Regional Challenge while

playing as an individual in the Florida State hosted Chrysler Challenge and in the Liz Murphey Collegiate Challenge. Gonzalez's career-best individual finish came at the Chrysler Challenge as she finished in a tie for 30th in the individual standings.

"Erica showed us some important facets of her game last spring," said Dillman. "The most important things she showed was that she wants to work hard, stay consistent and be a good teammate. Those intangibles, along with improving her play and lowering her scores will allow her to help us reach our goal of finishing at nationals in May."

Dillman's hard work in recruiting has added two newcomers to the Seminoles' roster with freshman Macarana Silva looking like the most viable of the pair to have an impact in 2007-08. The first-ever player from Chile to play at Florida State brings an already solid game to Tallahassee — one that could help her break into the Seminoles' line-up right away.

"Macarana is a player that many people knew about and worked hard to recruit," said Dillman. "We are very excited to have her as a part of our team and look forward to her helping us immediately. Our players are going to enjoy playing with her as much as she is going to enjoy playing with and learning from them."

A pair of seniors — Ashleigh Anderson and Ashley Kemp, a junior — Sara Young, a sophomore — Jamie Kuhn, and a junior college transfer — Sarah Hutchins will add to the Seminoles' depth and bolster Florida State's flourishing junior varsity program. All three players have the ability and will be given the chance to break into the Seminoles' line-up during the season. Jamie Kuhn, a sophomore, gained valuable experience last season and will also be afforded the opportunity to help the Seminoles in 2007-08.

"The group of players that includes Ashleigh, Ashley, Sara, Jamie and Sarah are very important to our team," said Dillman. "Not only do they push all of our players to work hard on a daily basis but they push them to stay strong and do the right things on the course every day. They are all fundamentally sound golfers who help the players in our line-up stay sharp. They all have the respect and admiration of every player on our team for their work ethic and inner strength."

"I'm really excited about this season for a lot of reasons," said Dillman. "Our players are very hard workers who have the incredible desire to be successful on the course and in the classroom. When you combine those attributes with the talent they have, that's a pretty strong combination for our team to perform very well this year."

It is because of her players and their attributes that Dillman will spend the 2007-08 season with a permanent smile on her face as she finds her Seminoles at the top of many a leader board. ■

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