

# Golfer heading to regional meet despite spring struggle

By Tim Pearson  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska golfer Melissa Odell posted the best scores in four of the Cornhuskers' five fall meets.

Although she hasn't golfed as well this spring as she did in the fall, Odell said she couldn't be happier because the Huskers are going to the regional meet.

The Huskers qualified for the regional meet for the first time in school history with an eighth-place finish at

the WSIC Tournament in Atlanta last weekend.

Odell, a junior from Fredonia, Kan., said making the regional meet made up for the disappointment of not playing as well individually this spring.

"The team is more important than the individual," she said. "In college, it's a team-oriented game. You work as five instead of one."

The five golfers — Kim Lefler, Stephanie Flood, Michelle Patterson, Heidi Wall and Odell — are confident they'll help the Huskers win the Big

Eight Championships beginning Monday, Odell said.

"We're really focused on winning the Big Eight," she said. "We've competed against all of them and been right there. Oklahoma and Oklahoma State are not going to intimidate us."

Odell not only is looking for the Huskers to win the Big Eight title but also thinks they have a realistic shot at winning the regional meet and qualifying for the NCAA Championships.

The top 10 schools qualify for the national meet, which will be held

May 25-28 in Eugene, Ore.

Odell, who was named Academic All-Big Eight along with Lefler, Flood and Patterson, is hoping she can return to how she played during the fall season.

"The fall was definitely stronger for me," Odell said. "I did very well in the fall. I struggled in the spring trying to get back in a zone."

Odell said she hoped she could get back into that zone for the Huskers' final two meets.

"I'm not satisfied with my play

whatsoever," she said. "I have to put it all together."

But even when she has been off, Odell said, her teammates have helped pick her up.

"We're a very consistent five — we get along real well," Odell said. "We're all pretty much the same type of golfers, which helps in practice rounds."

"Most of us are all long hitters off the tee, so we help each other in practice rounds all the time on how to approach each hole."

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