

SHSU golf heading to Washington



■ **Bearkats secure second regional tournament appearance in school history**

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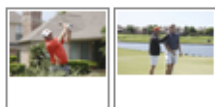
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Rick Yeatts

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Rick Yeatts/For The Huntsville Item. J.T. Taylor and the Sam Houston golf team had a lot to celebrate about on Monday, as they were given a No. 8 seed. Last year, Sam Houston made its first ever NCAA Division I regional golf appearance as the No. 12 seed at Auburn, Alabama.



expanded our horizons. We have five players who have the ability to shoot in the 60s on any given day and feel like we're a dangerous team.

"Gold Mountain Golf Club is an amazing course and we will be going up against an outstanding field. It's going to be a great experience."

Sam Houston's back-to-back Southland champions ended a 20-year drought since the Kats' last league title. A program that produced four NAIA national championship teams in the late 1970s and early 1980s now is back in the national limelight.

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By Paul Ridings Jr. For The Huntsville Item

The Sam Houston men's golf team is off to the Great Northwest next week to participate in the NCAA Regional Championships hosted by the University of Washington at the famed Gold Mountain Golf Club in Bremerton Thursday, May 14 through Saturday, May 16.

The Bearkats are the No. 8 seed in a field that includes South Carolina, Washington, Southern California, Baylor, UAB, TCU, Iowa State, Michigan, California-Davis, Virginia Commonwealth, Pepperdine, Cleveland State and South Dakota.

The top five finishers at regionals and top two individuals not on a qualifying team earn berths in the NCAA Men's Golf Championships to be held May 29 through June 3 at the Concession Golf Club in Bradenton, Florida. The national championships will be televised live on The Golf Channel.

Last year, Sam Houston made its first ever NCAA Division I regional golf appearance as the No. 12 seed at Auburn, Alabama. The Bearkats placed 11th in the team standings but were just five strokes behind the fifth qualifying team.

"We're looking forward to getting back to the regionals," head coach Brandt Kieschnick said. "We've really built on last year's performance at the regional. We've drawn on that experience all year. We're a deeper team this year and coming just five shots from nationals has

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In the Bearkats' 11 tournaments this year – all against top caliber NCAA Division I opponents – Sam Houston has won three events, finished as runner-up twice and third once.

"It's amazing to see just how far this program has come since I came here two years ago as a transfer," Cabra said. "This program has improved not just in terms of how every has played but how mature everybody on the team is and how much they want to win."