

## Bremerton back on national golf map as Gold Mountain hosts NCAA men's regional

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It's called the NCAA Bremerton Regional.

Gold Mountain Golf Club, once again, is putting Bremerton and Kitsap County on the golf map.

The 14-team field for the May 14-16 tournament, which includes host and No. 12-ranked Washington, was announced on Monday.

The city-owned course, in addition to conducting the United States Golf Association's Amateur Public Links (2006) and Junior Amateur (2011), was also the site of NCAA men's golf regionals in 2008 and 2010.

The Huskies, led by Ben Hogan Award semifinalist Cheng-Tsung Pan, will be the No. 2 seed, behind South Carolina, which is ranked No. 6 by Golfstat. Other top-25 teams include No. 17 USC and No. 18 Baylor.

Pan has won three of his school-record seven tournament this season. He's a three-time All-Pac-12 first-team pick and with a 70.1 scoring average. Teammate Corey Pereira was also a first-team Pac-12 choice and Jonathan Saunders earned second-team honors.

Carolina has won a school-record five tournament and has been in the top-five nine straight times. The Gamecocks tied for second at the SEC Championship with junior Matt NeSmith winning individual honors by six strokes with a 14-under 196 score on the Seaside Course at St. Simon Island, Georgia.

The rest of the field includes at-large selections University of Alabama Birmingham, Texas Christian, Iowa State, Michigan, UC Davis and conference winners Sam Houston State (Southland), Virginia Commonwealth (Atlantic 10), Pepperdine (West Coast), Cleveland State (Horizon) and South Dakota (The Summit League).

Five individuals — Byron Meth (Pacific), Jose Mendez (Minnesota-Twin Cities), Alex Franklin (Oregon State), Jordan Rodgers (BYU) and James Fahy (Gonzaga) — will join the competition at Gold Mountain. The low five teams and low individual not on one of the those teams advances to the NCAA Finals, which will be held May 29-June 3 at The Concession Golf Club in Brandenton, Florida.

Washington has won three regional championships, including the 2010 title when the Huskies ran away with it at Gold Mountain. Richard Lee was medalist with an 8-under 72-68-68—208 on the Olympic Course, and teammates Chris Williams and Darren Wallace finished second and third.

USC won the regional title in 2008 at Gold Mountain. Oregon's Joey Benedetti was the individual winner with an impressive 9-under 207 (69-69-69) total.

Washington's Nick Taylor, now on the PGA Tour, tied for second in 2008. Several others who have had success on the PGA or Web.com tours were also at Gold Mountain that year: Arnold Palmer's grandson Sam Saunders (Clemson), Gig Harbor's Kyle Stanley (Clemson), Jamie Lovemark (USC), Jonas Blixt (Florida State), Troy Merritt (Boise State), Tacoma's Andrew Putnam (Pepperdine) and Kevin Chappell (UCLA).

Washington was fourth at its annual Kikkor Golf Husky Invitational in September of 2014 at Gold Mountain. Oregon and UCLA tied for first. UC Davis was fifth. Oregon and UCLA are the 2-3 seeds at The Ball State Regional in Indiana.

Other No. 1 seeds and where they will be playing: Illinois (Noblesville, Indiana), Florida State (Chapel Hill, N.C.), Arizona State (Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.), Texas (Lubbock, Texas) and Vanderbilt (New Haven, Conn.).

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