

Carleton College

MEN'S
GOLF



Men's golf at Carleton College has one of the longest and most storied histories of any athletic program at the school. Alec Roman '11 continues the longstanding tradition of outstanding players in the maize and blue, earning all-conference honors in 2007. The Knights have featured 10 individual conference champions and an individual national champion in Wally Ulrich '48, who captured the national title against Division I competition. Carleton participates in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC), recognized as one of the most competitive conferences in all of Division III and offering the Knights top competition every time they play.



“Come and visit with team members to get a sense of playing golf at Carleton, where the sport is threaded around the student-athlete’s academic work. We do our utmost to provide the means for team members to improve their game within that academic framework.”

JERRY ERICKSEN, HEAD COACH

ABOUT CARLETON COLLEGE

Northfield, Minnesota

Founded in 1866, Carleton College is an independent and highly selective liberal arts college with a diverse student body, a talented faculty whose first priority is teaching, and a continued commitment to the liberal arts. Students choose Carleton because of the College’s size, exclusive focus on undergraduate education, small classes, and strong sense of community. At least two-thirds of Carleton students participate in one or more off-campus studies programs during their undergraduate years. Carleton consistently enrolls more National Merit scholars than any other undergraduate college. Five years after graduating, 75 percent of alumni pursue graduate or professional degrees.

Total Enrollment: Carleton enrolls approximately 1,900 students from all 50 states and around the world.

Financial Aid: Carleton meets the full demonstrated financial need of every admitted student for all four years. Carleton students typically graduate with less loan debt, on average, than students who graduate from other private institutions in the country.

Learn more about Carleton College at www.carleton.edu.



ABOUT THE COACH

Selected in August 2007 to lead the men's golf program, Jerry Ericksen has changed the team's attitude. "We strive to create a sense of belonging to a team," he says. "Those who do not play in a given event are as much a part of the squad as the traveling team."

Ericksen is no stranger to the MIAC golf scene. He previously was the head coach for both the men's and women's golf teams at nearby St. Olaf College. His men's teams captured three conference crowns and, with his guidance, the women's program won the inaugural MIAC Invitational



Ericksen (left) encourages his team to have fun on and off the course.

Tournament in 1988. Ericksen also has instructed several solo golfers, including a back-to-back Minnesota state high school champion.

Ericksen is a hands-on,

problem-solving coach. In the mid 1970s, he constructed a nine-hole, par-32 pasture golf course on his own property out of frustration with the lack of practice space for his players. Carleton's team occasionally plays on this so-called Six Crossings Field, which offers a different set of challenges from their usual practice venue, the Northfield Golf Club.

A retired professor of psychology and statistics, he holds a master's degree in statistics and a PhD in psychology from the University of Minnesota.

Q & A WITH COACH ERICKSEN

What is your coaching style?

I stand ready to support each player as he needs it: Some want to be left alone, some want a critical eye, and some want detailed attention. Part of the growth experience is to learn to deal with the peaks and valleys of a competitive golf round, so I refrain from on-the-course interaction during a competition. We can interact during practice on personal, swing, and course management issues.

What happens during practice?

Each player works on his own technique on the range, and I assist with feedback. Early in the sessions, I videotape the swing so that we have a basis from which we can work. I try to alternate range work and nine holes of play on successive days.



The Knights play on some of the most picturesque and challenging courses in Minnesota.

MEET THE TEAM



Loves to listen to music, plays the trombone, and is learning guitar

Collects Nike and New Balance shoes

Studied at Cambridge for a year and eats cereal at every meal



Studied abroad in Moscow and now works as a research associate for the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City



A recent graduate; attends the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law



Studied political and economic issues of the European Union in the Netherlands; passionately hates asparagus



Produced several critically acclaimed films in high school; tutors English to speakers of other languages (ESOL)

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The Carleton men's golf program measures success in large part by how well the five competitive players for each tournament are supported by all team members. To further broad participation, Carleton enters as many players into each tournament as allowed, whether they compete on the designated competitive team or as individuals.

An oversight committee—made up of the coach and selected players—approves all program aspects, including the practice schedule, budget allocation, and selection of competitive teams for tournaments.

The team tries to keep it fun with events like playing against crosstown rival St. Olaf for the “Rusty Putter” trophy from Prestwick Golf Club in Scotland, but the main focus is serious competition. As Jesse Saucedo, a past team captain, says, “We want this to be a serious program. Having fun is important, but we're a varsity sport and we want to be competitive.”

A TYPICAL WEEK

A variety of practice activities during the week preps the men's golf team for weekend competition. Practices start at 4:00 p.m. and each week includes an off day, which varies throughout the season.

MONDAY: Short game practice at Northfield Golf Club

TUESDAY: Full shot practice at Twin Oaks Driving Range

WEDNESDAY: 9-hole intersquad matches at Northfield Golf Club

THURSDAY: Practice Range at Willinger's Golf Club

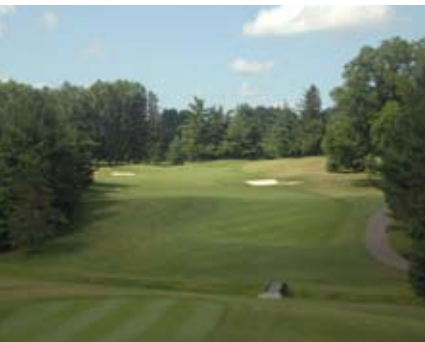
FRIDAY: Short game practice at Northfield Golf Club

SATURDAY-SUNDAY: Tournament (18 holes each day)

FACILITIES

Northfield Golf Club, located six blocks from campus, is home to the men's and women's golf teams, with each team hosting tournaments on its well-manicured course. The squads also utilize a driving range near campus.

Built in 1926, the Northfield Golf Club is one of the best-



Northfield Golf Club

kept secrets in the region, and has hosted major state events and served as a U.S. Open qualifying site. It is a true test of golf, forcing a player to hit a variety of shots during a round on its mature course with large trees and fast, undulating greens. The course plays at more than

6,600 yards for men and at 5,810 yards for women.

A practice-driving cage, equipped with video camera and related computer software, is available for individual swing analysis during the school year in **Laird Stadium**.

Carleton's on-campus athletic facilities include the **Recreation Center**, an 80,000-square-foot building containing a field house with four multipurpose courts surrounded by a 200-meter indoor track. It also houses a 6,000-square-foot fitness center with more than 80 exercise stations that are utilized by the team for conditioning and strength training. The facility offers racquetball courts, an aerobics/dance studio, climbing wall, batting cages, and other support facilities.

Tournaments are held at some of the finest courses in the Twin Cities and the Midwest. The Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) holds its conference championships at **Bunker Hills Golf Course**, a 27-hole championship course ranked in the top 25 by *Golf Digest* and recognized for its immaculate condition, tree-lined fairways, and beautiful water holes.

carleton.edu/athletics

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