

SPORTS NEWS



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Golf

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BU fires 293 to snare second at New England Champ.

Binghamton rallied when it counted most, and its 293 in the final round of the New England Division I Championship vaulted BU into second place in the regional field of 19. At the Triggs Memorial Golf Course in Providence, the Bearcats were in fourth after the opening round, but shot a tournament-best +5 on Sunday to finish at 596. In the process, the team overtook Hartford (601) and Army (601) and nearly caught champion Rhode Island (592). The 293 matched Rhode Island's opening-round 293 as the lowest among the 38 rounds played.

"This was an incredible effort for our team," head coach John Affleck said. "I think it is safe to say that it was our most significant tournament finish at Division I. I've never seen us as focussed as we were on Sunday."

With all the top teams in the region in the field, and as many as seven — including BU — in the hunt for just three NCAA bids, the stakes were high.

"The level of tension and pressure for that 5 1/2 hours was as keen as I've ever seen it," Affleck said.

Recent performances make strong case for NCAAs

The runner-up finish further enhanced BU's NCAA resume, which already includes five tournament titles from the fall, and the third-best rating in the most recent Golfweek/Sagarin New England poll. The Bearcats also beat rivals Yale, Hartford and Central Connecticut for the second straight week.

"It looks very strong for us getting a bid to the nationals," Affleck admitted.

All five players pivotal in runner-up finish

Demonstrating the team's great depth, all five players had key roles in the strong performance. The most significant may have come from senior captain **Adam Fuchs (Plainview, N.Y./Plainview-JFK)**, who shook off a rare string of high numbers to fire an even-par 72 on Sunday. Fuchs, arguably the greatest player in program history, had struggled with his game in the first two spring tournaments, and opened the New England event with a 79. But on Sunday, he returned to form, collecting four birdies on the 6,522-yard course, including a chip-in on No. 16.

"All of the sudden, Adam was the stalker again," Affleck said.

Freshman **Kevin Crawford (Lockport, N.Y.)** continued to show his spunk, shooting 74-76 to finish in a tie for 11th place in the field of 94. As the team's fifth man, he produced BU's second-best score, and has now had all four of his rounds count since moving into starting lineup. Junior **Keith Hendrickson (Syosset, N.Y.)** led the team with a fifth-place finish (75-72), and earned high-fives with an eagle on the par-4 eighth hole after holing out from 50 yards away. Classmate **Joe Kunz (Webster, N.Y.)** contributed an opening-round 75, and freshman **Brad Moulton (Orangeville, Ontario)** shaved nine strokes off his first-round score to post a 73 on Sunday. While his fellow countryman Mike Weir was winning the Masters, Moulton recorded four birdies and played the final 15 holes five-under to provide a huge boost to the team.

Up Next: Rhode Island and America East Championship

The Bearcats will return to Rhode Island for the Rams' invitational this Friday and Saturday before returning home to host the America East Championship Monday and Tuesday at En-Joie Golf Course.

2003 Spring Schedule/Results

MARCH

14 Fri. @ Stetson W 13.5-7.5
31 Mon. @ George Wash. Invit. T-9th of 20
at Swan Pt. CC, Md.

APRIL

5 Sat.- @ Yale Invitational 2nd of 22
6 Sun. at Yale GC
12 Sat.- @ New England Champ. 2nd of 19
13 Sun. at Tripp GC (R.I.)
25 Fri.- @ Rhode Island Invit. 10 a.m.
26 Sat. at Newport National CC
28 Mon.- AMERICA EAST CHAMP. 10 a.m.
29 Tue. at En-Joie GC

Top Stroke Averages

Name	Tot	Low	Avg.
Adam Fuchs	1568	-3	74.6
Keith Hendrickson	1439	even	75.7
Joe Kunz	1592	-1	75.8
Brad Moulton	1606	+1	76.5
Kevin Crawford	539	even	77.0
Eric Vinal	1318	+1	77.5