

BC3 golfers eye fourth Region XX crown, ticket to nationals

May 16, 2019



Five members of the Butler County Community College golf team will compete in the 36-hole National Junior College Athletic Association Division III Region XX tournament beginning Monday in Slippery Rock. Pioneers who will compete at Oakview Golf Club are, from left, Tyler Johnson, Noah Morgan, Carmen Oliva, Luke Ostermeyer and Tucker Skerbetz.

(Butler, PA) The undefeated Butler County Community College golf squad, coach Bill Miller says, will rely on its depth in seeking its first National Junior College Athletic Association Division III Region XX team title since 2015 and fourth overall when the 36-hole championship begins Monday.

The Pioneers enter the two-day tournament at the par-70 Oakview Golf Club, Slippery Rock, at 7-0 this spring, and will compete against teams from Garrett College, McHenry, Md.; and Anne Arundel Community College, Arnold, Md.; and against individual golfers from the Community College of Allegheny County-Boyce; CCAC-North; and Westmoreland County Community College.

Five members of the Region XX winning team, and five golfers with the lowest scores and not on the championship squad, advance to the NJCAA Division III national tournament June 4-7 in Chautauqua, N.Y., where the top 18 finishers in an expected field of 100 become All-Americans.

“We are deeper this year,” said Miller, whose teams also won Region XX titles in 2009 and 2013, and crowned All-Americans Thomas Dimun and Stefan Carlsson in 2015. “The four and five golfers are capable of putting up a good score. I think that is our strength. We have depth. We have guys who have competed before.”

Carmen Oliva, a BC3 freshman and Neshannock High School graduate, leads the Pioneers with an 80.3 average, followed by sophomore Noah Morgan, Allegheny-Clarion Valley High, 81.8;

sophomore Tucker Skerbetz, Laurel, 82.3; freshman Tyler Johnson, Armstrong, 87.3; and sophomore Luke Ostermeyer, Laurel, 90.

Skerbetz has been the medalist twice this spring, and Morgan and Oliva once each.

Morgan and teammate Michael Rozzi, a Neshannock High graduate, qualified for the four-round NJCAA Division III national tournament in 2018. Rozzi finished tied for 21st place and Morgan, No. 59.

“Noah wants to go back,” Miller said. “Ever since he came back last June, he has been thinking about this year. He is really focused on doing that.”

Morgan was a medalist with an 83 on May 7; Oliva, with a 78 on April 18; and Skerbetz, with a 77 and a 74 on May 3 and May 10, respectively.