

Oliva becomes first BC3 golfer to win two WPCC titles

Oct. 6, 2019



Butler County Community College golfers Jocelyn Dias, left, an Armstrong High graduate, and Carmen Oliva, a Neshannock High graduate, are shown Sunday, Oct. 6, 2019, at The Links at Spring Church in Apollo after winning Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference individual titles in the season-ending tournament.

(Apollo, PA) Carmen Oliva on Sunday made Butler County Community College golf team history by becoming the Pioneers' first two-time Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference individual champion with a 10-stroke victory in the season-ending tournament at The Links at Spring Church.

Oliva, a 2016 Neshannock High graduate who shot a two-round 156 on the par-72 course, also became the fifth different Pioneer to capture the WPCC individual championship since 2003.

BC3's Jocelyn Dias, an Armstrong High graduate, on Sunday won the 2019 WPCC women's title in an uncontested field, as did Julia Fischer, a Freeport High graduate in 2018. Chris Kier, of Knoch, won the men's title in 2014, followed by Oliva in 2016 and Anthony Lewis, of Butler, in 2017.

Oliva on Sunday topped a field of 13 men's golfers from Garrett Community College, McHenry, Md.; the Community College of Allegheny County and Westmoreland County Community College.

"It's awesome," Oliva said of his history-making performance at BC3. "I love it. I didn't know until coach told me."

Pioneers Coach Bill Miller said it's difficult to win one WPCC individual championship, let alone two.

"I let Carmen know he made history," Miller said. "It's a big accomplishment."

C.J. Davis, of Garrett, finished second with a 166; Dominic Achille, of CCAC, was third with a 167; and Brady Merrick, of Garrett, and Blake Martin, of CCAC, tied for the final two spots with 171s.

"Carmen kept himself out of trouble," Miller said. "His shots were in play, he hit the fairways and the greens, and he was very good putting. He was the most consistent player in the field."

Oliva credited his short game in padding a first-round six-stroke lead to a final 10-stroke edge.

"My putting and my chipping were working," he said. "I had quite a few par putts that saved me."

Oliva, who averaged an 80.2 in BC3's fall 2019 regular season and was medalist twice, was also named to the WPCC all-conference squad on Sunday.

Dias is the second female golfer at BC3 in Miller's 16-year tenure as coach, following Fischer, who was selected to the WPCC all-tournament squad in fall 2018.

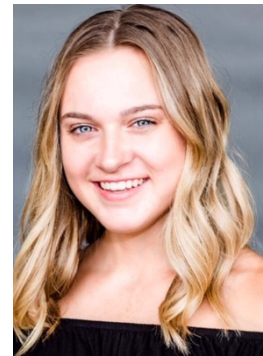
"On Saturday she was putting well, and on Sunday she was hitting her tee shots better," Miller said, adding that Dias could "surprise some people" in the spring and fall 2020 seasons.

The tournament, Dias said, "gave me a sense of pressure that you don't feel in a regular-season match."

The Pioneers' Jake Cuny, of Butler, shot a 198 and Dias, a 204.



Butler County Community College's Carmen Oliva, a Neshannock High graduate, won the 2019 Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference men's golf title in the season-ending tournament on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2019.



Butler County Community College's Jocelyn Dias, an Armstrong High graduate, won the 2019 Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference women's title in the season-ending tournament on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2019.

BC3's fall golf seasons conclude with the WPCC championship tournament. The Pioneers' spring season features regional play, regional tournaments and possible national championship appearances.