

Liberty Golf Chronology

1971

Lynchburg Baptist College was founded by Dr. Jerry Falwell, pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church.

1972-73

Lynchburg Baptist College was renamed Liberty Baptist College. The Flames joined the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) as an associate member.

1980

Liberty Baptist joined the NCAA at the Division II level as an associate member.

1981

Liberty Baptist became a full-fledged member at the NCAA Division II level.

1984

Liberty Baptist became eligible for NCAA Division II postseason participation.

1984-85

Golf competed as a club sport under the founder of the program, Mike Hall. Hall was named coach in June of 1984.

1985-86

Liberty Baptist College was renamed Liberty University. Liberty's golf program became an intercollegiate sport and played at the NCAA Division II level, where the Flames won the state championship.

1986-87

Liberty repeated as the Division II Virginia state champions.

1987-88

Liberty won its third straight Division II state championship. The Flames played at the NCAA Division II nationals and placed fifth in the nation. Daniel Owen and Chris Turner both earned All-America honors, while head coach Mike Hall was named District II Coach of the Year.

1988-89

The Flames' golf program made the move to the NCAA Division I with the rest of Liberty's athletics department on Sept. 1, 1988.

July 1, 1992

Frank Landrey was named the program's second head coach.

1993

Chris Easley became the first Scholastic All-America golfer. The golf team ranked first out of 17 sports at Liberty with 3.05 G.P.A.

1994

The Flames recorded their first NCAA Division I tournament win at Davis and Elkins Invitational. Kenny Hobbs took medalist honors. Liberty won the First Annual LU/Water's Edge Classic. Todd Setsma won the Charleston Southern Invitational and set numerous Liberty records.

1995-96

The Flames shot a team 890 at Campbell for a major program win. Liberty's junior varsity team won its first NCAA Division I tournament at VMI. Jared Albert took the low medalist honors at VMI. Justin Jennings set a new record for the lowest 18-hole score with a 65 at Tenn.-Chattanooga. Chad Hall became the third Flames golfer to be selected to the Division I Scholastic All-America team.

1996-97

The Flames won their fifth tournament at Washington & Lee. Andy Braddock took the medalist honors for the event.

1997-98

Liberty won its sixth tournament at the Liberty University Fall Classic on the Seatrail Resort Byrd Course with a new record of 869, 54-hole total. Dan Willis led Flames with new 54-hole record of 211. His back-to-back 68s were also a 36-hole record of 136. Mark Setsma became the program's fourth Scholastic All-American.

1998

Liberty began competition in District 2 as Coach Landrey moved the Flames from District 3 north.

1999-2000

The Flames moved into the new millennium with a great program and some outstanding accomplishments. The golf program became the first Liberty team to beat Notre Dame, while notching its seventh Division I tournament win. Notre Dame was ranked No. 30 at the time by Rolex rankings. Yong Joo made Big South history as he broke the championship tournament record, compiling a 63 for the first round and going on to win the 54-hole event by six strokes at the Big South Tournament. Todd Humrichouser was ranked nationally in the top 25 for percentage in fairways. Yong Joo was named to the first All-Virginia State team and placed fourth on the All-District II team. Both marked firsts in the history of the golf program.

2000-01

The Flames finished third at the Golden Horseshoe Invitational, recording their highest finish of the season. Yong Joo finished his career with the best overall average in the history of the program. Allen Hill scored a hole-in-one at the Big South Championship, becoming the first player in Liberty golf history to record an ace at the Big South Championship. The Flames posted a 74.4 average in 111 rounds as a team. Yong Joo also recorded an ace in the Wolf Pack Classic.

2001 (Fall)

The Flames set a record by shooting a two-under par 286 in the final round of the Pirate Fall Intercollegiate, hosted by East Carolina. The team also tied the school record for the best 36-hole score in the final two rounds of the same tournament, shooting a 576.

2002 (Fall)

The Flames wrapped up the fall by winning the LU Fall Classic, with junior Paul Carey and freshman Jordan Mitchell tying for second individually.

2003 (Spring)

The Flames earned an at-large bid for the NCAA Regional, becoming the first Liberty athletics team to ever earn an at-large bid to an NCAA tournament. The Flames finished the event tied for 24th place with a 66-over par 930 at the NCAA East Regional at the Auburn University Club in Auburn, Ala.

2003-04

The Flames finished third at the MacDonald Cup and earned a second-place finish at the ODU/Seascape Golf Tournament. Liberty won the Drew Upton Golf Classic while setting a then team record of 297.94 strokes per round.

2004 (Summer)

Jeff Thomas was named the third golf coach in program history.

2004-05

The Flames had their best finish of the season when they placed second at the Scotty Duncan Memorial with a 594, which was good for 26-over par. Four players had averages below 77 with senior Jonathan Dickinson leading the way with a 76.1.

2005-06

Liberty was an NCAA East Regional participant; marking the second time in program history the Flames earned an at-large bid. 2003 and 2006 still serve as the only times a Liberty athletic team has earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament. Liberty finished 22nd at the NCAA East Regional with a 53-over par 917 at the Lake Nona Golf Club in Orlando, Fla. The Flames won three tournaments, including the Frank Landrey Invitational, Hargrove Davis Spring Classic and the William & Mary Invitational. Sophomore Parker McKoy placed second at the Big South Championship when he shot a one-under par for the tournament, including a 67 in round two.

May 15, 2007

Liberty University Founder and Chancellor Dr. Jerry Falwell went home to be with the Lord as he passed away at the age of 73. Seven days later, a funeral service was held at Thomas Road Baptist Church with 10 Liberty University student-athletes serving as honorable pallbearers, reflecting on Dr. Falwell's love for athletics. Peter Horstman represented the golf program as one of the pallbearers.

July 14-19, 2008

Nathan Schenz-Davis qualified for and participated in the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship, held July 14-19 in Aurora, Colo., at the Murphy Creek Golf Course.

July 2008

Jay Calvo was named to the Cleveland Golf All-America Scholars for NCAA Division I golfers, as announced by the Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA), giving the Flames seven total All-America Scholar awards bestowed upon Liberty golfers by the GCAA.

April 20, 2009

Robert Karlsson was a unanimous selection as the 2009 Big South Freshman of the Year, becoming the first player in program history to be voted the league's top rookie since the award moved to a voting system following the 2002-03 season.

May 6, 2009

Robert Karlsson became the first player in program history to receive an at-large individual invitation to the NCAA Regionals, qualifying for the Galloway Regional at the Galloway National Golf Club in Galloway, N.J. Karlsson finished tied for 45th place with an 18-over par 231 (82-76-73).

April 16, 2010

For the first time in program history, Liberty swept the Big South major awards, as Jeff Thomas was named Coach of the Year, Robert Karlsson was named Big South Golfer of the Year and Max McKay was named Big South Freshman of the Year.

April 17, 2010

Robert Karlsson becomes the second player in program history to capture Big South Championship medalist honors. He carded a seven-under par 209 (73-70-66) to win the 2010 Big South Men's Golf Championship by two strokes at The Patriot Golf Club in Ninety Six, S.C.

May 10, 2010

Robert Karlsson and Max McKay earn invitations to the NCAA East Regional, which is played on The Course at Yale in New Haven, Conn. Karlsson earned his bid by virtue of capturing the Big South individual medalist honors, while McKay was an at-large selection.

May 22, 2010

Max McKay becomes the first player in program history to post a sub-par score at the NCAA East Regionals, as he finishes tied for 16th place with a one-under par 209 (70-72-67). McKay became the eighth player in Big South Conference history to break par at an NCAA Regional event. Robert Karlsson gives Liberty a pair of Top 25 finishes by finishing tied for 24th place with a one-over par 211 (66-74-71).

August 11, 2010

Former Liberty golfer Rob McClellan qualifies for the 2010 PGA Championship, the 92nd version of the tournament that was contested at the Whistling Straits Golf Course in Kohler, Wis.

August 22, 2010

Max McKay and Preston Dembowski qualify for the 110th U.S. Amateur Championship, which is contested at the Chambers Bay Golf Course in University Place, Wash.

Nov. 17, 2010

The golf program concludes the fall season with its first-ever Top 50 ranking, as Liberty finished the fall season ranked No. 41 in the country by Golfstat.

April 17, 2011

For the second year in a row, Liberty swept the Big South's major regular-season awards. Jeff Thomas was named Big South Coach of the Year for the second season in a row and Robert Karlsson was tabbed Big South Golfer of the Year for the second consecutive season. Chase Marinell was named Big South Freshman of the Year, giving Liberty the conference's top freshman for three straight seasons. Preston Dembowski was named Big South Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

April 18, 2011

Liberty opened the 2011 Big South Men's Golf Championship as the event's No. 1 seed, the first time the program had entered the event as the top seed

April 20, 2011

Liberty captured its first-ever Big South Men's Golf Championship, winning the 2011 title by 31 strokes after carding an eight-under par 856 (290-277-289). Preston Dembowiak captured his first collegiate medalist honors, as he led the field with a seven-under par 209 (70-66-73), to give Liberty repeat Big South individual medalist honors. Dembowiak is the third golfer in program history to earn Big South individual medalist honors.

May 19-21, 2011

Liberty participated in the NCAA Arizona Regional, entering the event as the No. 5 seed in the 12-team field, marking the program's highest team seeding at a regional event. The Flames finished the three-day, 54-hole event in 10th place with an eight-over par 860 (280-292-288), Liberty's best NCAA Regional finish.

June 3, 2011

Jeff Thomas was named a finalist for the Dave Williams Award, presented annually by the Golf Coaches Association of America to the top collegiate golf coach in the country.

June 9-11, 2011

Robert Karlsson was a member of the European team for the 2011 Palmer Cup, which competed and lost to the American team at the Stanwich Club in Greenwich, Conn.

June 14, 2011

Liberty finishes the season ranked No. 33 in the final Golfweek national rankings and No. 35 in the last Golfstat listing, the program's highest year-end national rankings.

June 28, 2011

Jeff Thomas was named the 2011 Coach of the Year by the Virginia State Golf Coaches Association, the first coach to receive the state's top collegiate coaching honor.

Aug. 2, 2011

For the second year in a row, Preston Dembowiak was named to the Cleveland Golf/Srixon All-America Scholars team. Dembowiak became the second golfer in program history to be named to the top collegiate golf national academic team during a career (joining Jonathan Dickinson – 2004 and 2005).

Aug. 11-14, 2011

For the second year in a row, Liberty golf program alum Rob McClellan qualified for the PGA Championship, participating in the 93rd version of the tournament that was contested at the Atlanta Athletic Club in Johns Creek, Ga.

Dec. 23, 2011

Liberty finished the fall golf season ranked No. 30 in the final Golfweek rankings of the fall and No. 36 in the last Golfstat rankings, marking the second year in a row Liberty finished the fall season with a Top 50 national ranking.