

Husker legends, local golfers unite for 11th Fiala tournament

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Some big-name Husker football players will team up with little-known local golfers this weekend during the 11th annual Adrian Fiala Husker Heritage Golf Tournament at Wild Horse Golf Club.

The scramble tournament has attracted many Husker legends over the years and this year's lineup will be no different with players such as Eric Crouch, Zach Wiegert, Larry Jacobson and Jeff Kinney scheduled to appear.

But the most recognized former Husker associated with the tournament, founder Adrian Fiala, is not likely to make it to Gothenburg for the event.

Fiala had surgery in Lincoln on July 15 for an infection in his foot and will be out of commission for a few more days.

That won't stop the annual golf tournament, though.

"I hate that I won't be able to be there but I'm sure the people there can handle things," he said.

Fiala, a former Husker football player himself and long-time radio color commentator, hosted his first Husker Heritage tournament in Gothenburg in 2002.

He said during frequent work trips to the middle and western parts of Nebraska, he noticed folks in those regions always wanted to feel connected to the Husker athletic programs.

He chose Gothenburg for the event because of its central location, its top-rated golf course and his connection with former Gothenburg TeamMates board member Matt Williams.

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In the first 10 years, the event has raised more than \$55,000 for state and local TeamMates mentoring programs.

A portion of the proceeds go directly to the Gothenburg TeamMates organization, providing nearly 60% of the local operating budget.

Those funds, in turn, provide many opportunities for the mentoring matches, according to Gothenburg TeamMates coordinator Lindsey Tederman.

Fiala said he enjoys giving to TeamMates because he believes in young people and wants to see them have the opportunities and direction they all need.

He also feels good about supporting his friends and TeamMates founders, Tom and Nancy Osborne.

The tournament weekend kicks off at 6 p.m. Friday when the Gothenburg TeamMates board will serve a Nebraska Pork Producers meal to all golfers on the course or any community members hoping to catch an autograph of a Husker legend.

A nine-hole putting contest will follow the meal.

The tournament begins with a 9 a.m. shotgun start on Saturday.

Foursomes will be paired with a Husker for the 18-hole scramble. Trophies will be awarded to the top three teams and individuals.

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For more information, call Wild Horse Golf Club at 537-7700 or contact Tederman by calling 537-2965 or email gothen-burgteammates@gmail.com.