

## U of M Turf Club Continues to Improve

By Aaron Johnsen

The University of Minnesota Turf Club is beginning its new season, just like many of you. Recently, we returned from the GCSAA National Show. This year, as in the past, we competed in the Turf Bowl. This year's Turf Bowl consisted of a three-hour test on a variety of topics about warm- and cool-season golf courses.

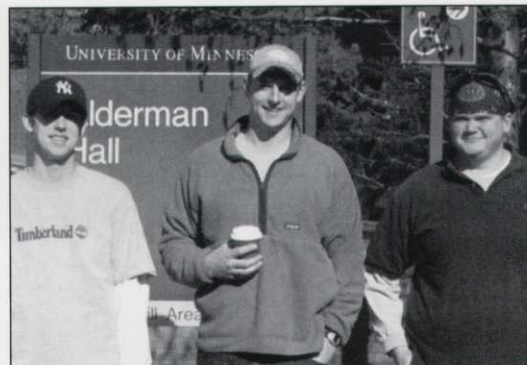
Four teams competed from the University of Minnesota and placed 11th, 19th, 40th and 42nd. Eighty-six teams competed overall. Eleventh is the highest the U of M Turf Club has ever placed. Members of the 11th place team consisted of Gabe Klaassen, Josh Olson, Mitch Savage and Mark Schloo.

**Currently we are beginning our fundraising** to raise money for next year's trip. Our efforts include selling Easter baskets with turf, organizing a golf pass raffle and working/volunteering at various golf courses. There are many ways one can support the turf club's efforts in these fundraising activities.

Last year we held our first annual Golf Give-away. We collected golf passes from ten courses around the state and raffled them off. This event was the club's largest fundraiser ever and it will occur again this year. Courses can contribute golf passes or anything else golf-related for the raffle.

**The Turf Club has also raised funds by helping golf courses with major maintenance projects.** Some of those projects include covering greens, aerating and removing trees. We have also helped with the tournament preparations at the TPC of Blaine. Graciously these courses have donated money and golf passes for our efforts. Anyone interested in having the Turf Club do work should contact us.

**Besides our fundraising activities, we participate in educational opportunities revolving around the turf industry.** Last fall we had speakers from local golf courses and from the University of Minnesota. This spring we are planning to tour some golf courses' facilities. The members of the turf club are interested in learning all they can about the turf industry and we



**Top U of M Turf Bowl Team**  
Mitch Savage, Gabe Klaassen and Josh Olson.  
Teammate Mark Schloo is not pictured.

encourage anyone to talk to us.

It is important for Turf Club members to learn all they can about the turf industry. A good way to prepare for the turf industry is to attend regional seminars and the national conference.

Thank you for your time and support. Good luck on the upcoming season. We look forward to hearing from you.

*(Editor's Note: Any donations or inquiries can be directed to President Aaron Johnsen at john6333@umn.edu or 1970 Folwell Ave, Alderman Hall 305, St. Paul, MN 55108.)*

163 Yard Par 3 eighth hole at the Refuge Golf Club in Oak Grove, Minnesota.



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