

# 2025 Spring Preview

## Spring 2025 Norman Tigers Men's Golf Preview

The 2025 Norman Tigers head into the spring season led by returning starters Benson Diehm (Jr.) and Keagan Hager (Soph.). This will be the youngest squad that Co-Head Coaches Gregg Grost and Todd Hamilton have fielded since the 2019-20 season when Grost came out of retirement to guide the Tigers.

Young and relatively inexperienced at the high school tournament level, the Tigers are extremely talented, athletic, and laser-focused on team goals.

**"The new year-round season was great for a young team like ours," said Grost. "The qualifying rounds, afterschool matches, and 36-hole events allowed us to play 14 different players in the fall. The experience they gained under tournament conditions against the best teams in the state will serve us well as we head into the early spring schedule".**

In addition to Diehm and Hager, the starters heading into the Spring included transfer Grant Maher (Jr.), returnee Carter Cook (Soph.), and Maverick Beeson (Fr.). While the Tigers failed to deliver a team win in the fall, their third and fourth-place finishes against the best teams in 6A have served as a catalyst for the off-season.

**"The work ethic demonstrated by this team since the 1st of November has been very good. The team leaders set the standard in everything we do, whether it is morning strength and conditioning workouts, afterschool and weekend practice, or working on their mechanics with their personal instructors. It is all about holding each other accountable and believing the process will give us the best chance to achieve the team goals for the season," said Grost.**



Diehm and Maher, as the most experienced players on the squad, will look to contend individually in each tournament. Both players have shown the ability to shoot under par on any given day.

**"Improved short games and better course management skills are things they have focused on in the offseason while working with Coach Todd. Their ability to take what they have learned and trust it in the competition will be key for their continued development in the Spring," said Grost.**

Hager, who played every event during his freshman year, is an integral piece of the puzzle for 2025.

**"Keagan is in the best condition he has ever been since arriving at NHS. The back issues he has dealt with over the past 12 months are less of a factor now. For this team to accomplish its goals, he must take the next step with his game by eliminating the big hole or stretch of big holes, allowing him to count every round," said Grost.**

Next up is Carter Cook.

**"Cook's development over the past 12 months has been the most by any player on the team. Transitioning from football in fall 2024 he was playing catch up last Spring. Now a year-round competitive golfer, he just keeps getting better. Between working on his course management skills with Hamilton and his swing mechanics with his instructor Jim Woodward, the sky is the limit for Carter this Spring" said Grost.**

Maverick Beeson, standing 6'4" and 185 lbs. as a 15-year-old true freshman, is the wild card for the Tigers heading into the Spring. Mav, as his teammates know him, just keeps getting better every day.

His work ethic and desire to be the best player in the state is evident every day. His physical skills are undeniable for his age. Learning how to get the ball in the hole and gaining confidence are the keys for him to challenge for a tournament win.

**"It's not a matter of if Mav will go low—it's when and how soon. When he does, we get real good, real fast," Grost said.**

Waiting in the wings is emerging Soph. Jude Banks. Having gone through a growth spurt over the last year, like most teenagers who play the game, adjusting to his new body has been a learning process. Working with his instructor, Jim Woodward over the last five months, his swing mechanics and emerging physical strength are starting to come together.

**"I really like what we see with Jude right now. His misses are getting better, and his increased distance is making the game easier for him. His ability to challenge the guys in front of him in the line-up is a key for us. Jude is going to have his opportunities this spring. Quality depth on any golf team is a luxury, a necessity if you expect to have sustainable success over a long season. Jude is right there, and you never know when a star might emerge."**

A cast of talented, hungry young players are lined up for the Tigers behind the top six. Sophomores, Hunter Hurley, Gavin Anderson, Jasper Prince, and Tylan Cobb have all had their moments over the last year. Whether one or more of them emerge this Spring in a JV event remains to be seen. All are highly motivated and very athletic. They are all much improved since their freshman year and only lack tournament experience to get them to take the next step.

The class of 2028 includes not only Maverick, but his partners in crime, Bennett Diehm, Hayden Garner, and Beckett Tiffany.

Bennett, the not so little brother of Benson, is following in his siblings' footsteps. Now standing at 6'0" and 175 lbs. at 15, his ball-striking and competitive nature is starting to remind everyone of another Diehm at the same age.

Garner decided to step away from NHS freshman basketball this past fall to chase his dreams on the course.

It was a difficult decision; he is a fierce competitor who showed signs of being a player at times in the fall. Hayden has attacked the weight room over the last 9 months, as gaining strength and mass will be key to his development and his ability to compete in the short term.

**"Hayden knows that he must get stronger to compete at the next level. While he has not hit his growth spurt yet, he is working continuously with his instructor and NHS Golf Alum JD Metzger on his mechanics" observed Grost.**

Tiffany is our Carter Cook for this year, having played football at NHS in the fall. His decision to focus entirely on golf going forward puts him on a similar path as current starter Cook experienced a year ago. Beckett is a very powerful, athletic young man who has played golf for several years. As a multi-sport athlete in the past, time is his ally as he transitions to full-time golf. He understands this Spring will be about catching up and learning the game. Like Garner, Beckett works with JD Metzger as his instructor.

The Tiger roster for the Spring also includes two seniors whose futures will take them on different paths after graduation in May. Three-year golf letterman Will Hyde has focused much of his time this school year in preparation for his future in aviation at OSU. A 2023 6A State Championship team member, Will supports his teammates both on and off the course.

Phoenix Murphy is a recent addition to the team following his very successful run as starting quarterback for the NHS Tigers football team. Phoenix signed his National Letter of Intent to play college football in Fall 2025. A solid golfer who has only been playing for two years, he is a leader in workouts and a true competitor on the course.

Two younger players round out the Tiger squad.

Junior Tripp Adler is in his second year as a member of the program. Known by his teammates as Tripper, his enthusiasm for all things NHS is known throughout the school. He continues to work on his game and stands ready to help his teammates when called upon.

Sophomore Josiah Sumo joined the team following the end of the NHS football season in the fall. A young golfer who will only continue to get better the more he focuses on the game. His hard work in our strength and conditioning program is well-known by his teammates. His work on his mechanics over the Spring and summer are key to his development.