

MATTHEWS MAKES HISTORY

Brooke Matthews (2017–21) commenced the 2021 fall collegiate golf season the best way a golfer could by setting the new NCAA 54-hole scoring record. In the first tournament of the season at the Cougar Classic in Hanahan, South Carolina, Matthews carded a 25-under 191 (63–64–64) to easily win the event and crush the NCAA record.

The NCAA record Matthews topped was previously held by Ohio State's Jacklyn Lee, who went 19-under in 2018. Matthews finished six strokes ahead of the mark, all the while breaking the Arkansas' 54-hole record, which was previously owned by fellow LPGA player Maria Fassi, who went 16-under in a tournament at the Mason Rudolph Challenge during the 2017–18 season.



Matthews had no idea she broke the scoring record until the trophy presentation.

"I was like, 'oh my gosh, that's crazy.' I couldn't believe it, I didn't know what (the record) was. It's probably a good thing that I didn't know what it was or that it was not on my radar," said Matthews.

At the Cougar Classic, Matthews registered just three bogies the entire tournament. Matthews birdied or eagled in 27 of 54 holes, with her 26 birdies being 11 more than the next closest golfer.

There was not a single golfer with a slight chance of surpassing Matthews in the final round of play. Krista Junkkari of North Carolina finished in second with a 12-under, which was still 13 strokes behind Matthews.

Matthews was obviously huge in helping the Razorbacks win the tournament with a 23-under 841 (284–281–276), just a stroke over Baylor. With the win, Arkansas was able to open up the fall season with both an individual and team win in the same tournament.

With the 54-hole record win, Matthews recorded her third collegiate win. Just a tournament later, Matthews finished on top was again by defending her individual medalist title at Arkansas' Blessings Collegiate Invitational with a 4-un-

der 212 (72–66–74), becoming the only player in the 52-person field to finish the event under par. Arkansas also won their home event with an 855 (295–274–286), which was 19 strokes better than second-place UCLA.

A few months after her record-setting performance, Matthews turned pro and is currently playing on the LPGA tour.