

## **Featured – Joao Girao**

*Joao Girao is a freshman on the golf team, is originally from Lisbon, Portugal, and is studying business administration.*

*His ultimate dream is to play golf professionally.*

*Girao started playing golf with his twin brother, who also plays at ULM, at the suggestion of their mother after driving past a golf course one day.*

*Before coming to ULM, Girao was ranked as the No. 3 amateur in Portugal and was a member of the Portuguese National Team.*

*“Golf is kind of addictive for me. It’s hard at the beginning and there’s a lot of room for improvement.”*

*One of the difference that Girao has noticed after moving to Louisiana from Portugal that the people are more open and nicer to new people. “I had several people tell me when I first got here that if I needed anything to just call them and they would help me.”*

*“He is a standout because he gets the big picture,” said coach Tim Baldwin. “He understands the value of education and wants to overachieve in everything he does. He is also a good teammate and has the ability to empathize when others struggle. Joao will be successful in life as he has excellent leadership skills, has strong beliefs and an outstanding work ethic. Joao also thrives on pressure, has an excellent short game and is a clutch putter.”*

### **DID YOU KNOW**

*-He placed third at the International Juniors of Belgium after a four-round total of 290, finished tied for third at the Spanish International U-18 Championship with a score of 287, was the winner of the Portuguese Federation Cup in 2015 and finished in the top 30 at the 2016 Italian Amateur.*

*-Also played tennis and soccer. Won a tennis when he was five years old.*

*-His father is a pro tennis teacher*

*-Has done a lot of traveling, mostly because of golf. He has also gone to France to ski.*

*-Used to run a lot*

### **ADVICE**

*Have fun. If you want to do something just do it. If you have a dream, do what you need to do to make that dream come true.*