

Girls golf underway

By Alex Connor
sports editor

With the season underway, the girls golf team is preparing for a season with a new coach and some unusual obstacles.

"We need to improve and get better from last season. Something we have been doing to improve has been working together to make each other better, getting to know each other, and practicing, as a team and individually," senior Celia Stanley said.

After graduating four seniors last season, the team is filled with a few young, new faces ready to fill their spots. In fact, team is so small that they continue to search for additional members and might face a season of playing as individuals if they cannot qualify as a team.

"We had four seniors last year, so we are a young team with some new freshmen. The freshmen have been doing their best to fill in the empty spots made by the graduated seniors. They've been working hard and adjusting to high school well," Stanley said.

Despite getting their first few matches in, the team now faces a huge challenge because of numbers.

"We have had some people quit and others get sick. This has put a delay on our season, but we're hoping to be ready by September to finish it strong," Stanley said.

The girls are hoping to be eligible to play in September as a team.

"The new girls on the team are not eligible to play just yet, but we are hoping to get them eligible by September so they can finish their season on a good note," Mrs. Lindsay Glaze, athletic secretary, said.

The athletic office is laying the groundwork for a more positive start to next year's girls golf season.

"We are trying to advertise the team and post about it as much as possible. We are posting on social media to encourage girls to join the team. Even if someone does not have any golfing experience, we want to encourage any girl who wants to have fun and learn something new to come and play golf," Mr. Mike Campbell, athletic director, said.

Being a freshman can be challenging when adjusting to the high school level of sports, from meeting new teammates to the intense competition.

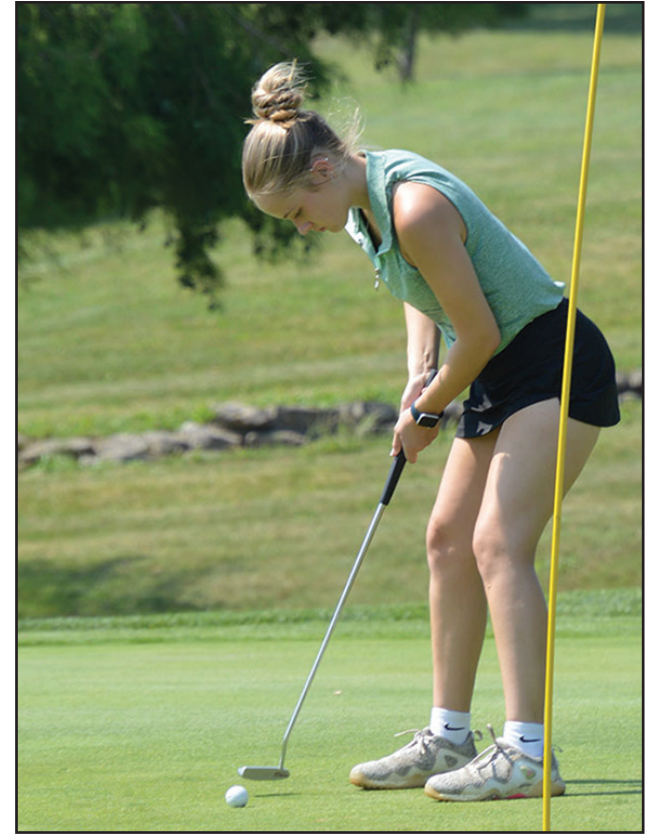
"Middle school golf is a lot of fun and joking around during practice and even meets, but high school, it gets way more serious, organized, and the competition is a lot better. I want to open up a little to get to know the girls on the team more and learn as much as I can from the coach," freshman Josie Fiesel said.

Coaching high school sports is challenging, but being a new coach to a team only adds to that challenge.

"Being a new coach is always challenging. Instead of getting to know the new kids on the team, you have to get to know every kid. You have to figure out each player's tendencies and play style. But once you get all that down, that's when the fun begins," Coach Steve Land said.

The team has loved the new addition.

"The new coach is amazing. He is very good at working with the younger girls and the girls new to golf. He is also very good at helping us older girls improve our game in little ways that it needs improvement," Stanley said.



Senior Celia Stanley lines up for a putt. She drained the shot. Leah Beaman photo

With County coming up, the girls could not be more excited to dominate the course.

"I am definitely looking most forward to the County meet this year. Not only do we get to miss school, but I really love the course because it is so nice and maintained very well. The course is in Franklin," Stanley said.



Sophomore middle Lola Trent prepares to serve. During practice, the team was involved with their serve-receive drill. Olivia Ford photo

Lady Woodmen ready for Martinsville Artisans

By Bre Wheatley
reporter

The volleyball team has been preparing for the season all summer long on and off the court.

"I'm most excited to see my teammates again. We practice every day so I get to be around them a lot. I'm also excited for the games. It's a lot of fun when the crowd is super packed," sophomore Addy Rogers, defense, said.

The thrill of seeing old faces and making new friends is one of the biggest aspects of sports. Along with this, there are many other dates to be excited about during the season.

"I'm excited for all the games, but I'm mainly excited for Senior Night and Sectionals because those games are always the most intense and the most people show up to them. It's fun to have people watching you because it just makes you want to do better," junior Hailey

Sommers, middle, said.

Some players said this season might be different from the rest. Seniors graduate, and the team circles through players constantly, so the team is always changing.

"I think it will be different this year compared to last year because we had a lot of good seniors graduate, who were my friends, but we also have a lot of young talent on the team that is going to grow to be a really great environment. I think this season will go well and even surprise people," senior Karissa Harris, outside hitter, said.

The freshmen are confident at filling the graduate's spots. Like Harris said, the team is young and full of potential.

"Me along with some others are new to the team so it's harder for us to mesh with the upperclassmen, but the upperclassmen are super nice so they make it easier to work

well with the team," freshman Genevieve Schroder, outside hitter, said.

Along with the newbies, there are some returners who are well-prepared for what the season could entail.

"I think we've all prepared really well over the summer. We had workouts and practice every day and we've worked really hard. We have a goal to win Sectionals, and we're going to push each other to achieve that goal," Harris said.

Coach Zachary Mackie is hopeful.

"We trained really hard over the summer so we should see the fruit of our labor during the season. There are some new faces that can really contribute to the team, he said.

The Lady Woodmen will be in action against Martinsville next Tuesday. JV is scheduled at 5:30 p.m., and varsity is scheduled at 7 p.m. although they will begin after JV.

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