

Newton girls end golf season at regionals

Newton News

WATERLOO — The Newton girls' golf team was supposed to be in Class 3A again this season.

Preliminary numbers had the Cardinals in 3A for the postseason, but a late drop of the girls' golf program by Des Moines Hoover pushed Newton back into 4A.

That made qualifying for the state tournament tougher for the Cardinals and their year ended at the 4A Region 4 tournament on Wednesday.

Newton finished seventh in the 10-team field with a 445 at the par 72 Irv Warren Memorial Golf Course.

That was well below the state-qualifying scores posted by regional champion Linn-Mar and Cedar Rapids Washington.

The Lions won the regional with a 334 and Cedar Rapids Washington also clinched a state berth with a 353.

The top two teams and the top six individuals advanced to the state tournament later this month.

The top Cardinal golfer was Eva Pak and she led



Troy Hyde/Newton News

Newton senior Ella Price chips onto the green during a meet earlier this season at Oakland Acres. The Cardinals finished seventh at the regional tournament in Waterloo on Wednesday.

the way with a 104. She had nine-hole splits of 47-57. The other three counting scores came from Marin Pettigrew (109), Ella Price (115) and Addison Hook (117). Addie Ratcliff (119) and Addison Van Maanen (120) turned in non-counting scores.

Marshalltown (375), Waterloo East (391), Ankeny (400), Urbandale (412), Newton (445), Mason City (448), Fort Dodge (510) and Waterloo East (no team score) completed the field.

Linn-Mar placed five of its top six players in the top 10. Cedar Rapids Washington had spots 3-4-11.

Linn-Mar's Morgan Rupp was the meet medalist with a 74. Marshalltown's Natalie Henson was the runner-up medalist with a 78.

Cedar Rapids Washington's Jane Petersen (78) and May Messinger (79), Linn-Mar's Quinn Dunkle (83) and Marshalltown's Gaby Estabrook (85) were the other individual state qualifiers.



Troy Hyde/Newton News

Newton senior Marin Pettigrew putts during a meet earlier this season. The Cardinals' season ended on Wednesday during a Class 4A regional tournament in Waterloo.

Youthful Cardinals seek jump in wins

By Troy Hyde
Sports Editor

The Newton softball team has a lot of core players back from last year's roster. But the Cardinals will be light on depth and the roster features plenty of youth and inexperience.

That doesn't mean head softball coach Kory Leiker's goals and expectations have changed.

"The goals never change. Twenty wins is always the goal," Leiker said. "We'll see what happens this year. I will never move backwards. We are always moving forward. I think we'll be able to compete."

The roster features 20 players, no seniors, five juniors and four eighth-graders. Leiker said he expects 11-12 players will see regular varsity action. The remaining players will get experience at the JV level.

"Our depth is really shy. We don't have two or three girls sitting on the bench ready to play varsity this year," Leiker said. "I don't want to throw in young players just to throw them into the wolves."

"We'll probably go a pretty solid 11-12. The rest of them



Sumpter



Sims



Ahn



Swank

will play JV or they could be courtesy runners or pinch runners."

The top returners are juniors Kadance Ahn, Hailey Sumpter and Peyton Durr, sophomores Chloe Swank and Katelyn Lambert and freshmen Mack Sims and Sloan Brodersen.

The program graduated six seniors who logged at least 20 starts each last summer.

Sumpter is back and takes over No. 1 pitching duties. She started 13 games in the circle last season, finished 5-9 and had an earned run average of 3.73 in 101 1/3 innings. She also struck out 64 and walked only 14.

At the plate, Sumpter batted .281 with 12 RBIs and seven walks. She had a fielding percentage of .952.

Ahn is back at shortstop but

will miss the first six games of the season. She batted .333 last year and her .486 on-base percentage led the squad. She also had a team-best 15 walks, was hit by nine pitches and tallied 19 runs, 11 RBIs, four doubles and 10 stolen bases.

Sims will play shortstop in Ahn's absence but is the primary center fielder when the Cardinals' lineup is full strength.

Sims led Newton with a .382 batting average, 20 runs, 39 hits, five doubles, 17 steals and 46 total bases as an eighth-grader last season. Her .462 OBP and 14 walks were second to Ahn. Her fielding percentage was .932 and she totaled 17 RBIs.

Swank hit .275 and led the team with five doubles. She also had 15 RBIs and her fielding percentage was .974.

Brodersen scored 13 runs, had five RBIs, drew eight walks and stole three bases. Lambert scored nine runs, drove in four, walked five times and stole six bases.

Sims and Ahn both started 32 games last season, while Swank and Brodersen started at least 20.

Leiker said Sumpter will play first base when she's not pitching. When she's not in the circle, sophomore Tallyn Seitz, freshman Ava Williams or Brodersen will be.

Seitz will start the season as the No. 2 pitcher. Leiker expects Sumpter to carry the load.

"We have a good core group back, but they're just young," Leiker said. "I think we'll be fine. There have just been some growing pains this first week."

Swank and Durr are the team's two catchers. Both will play third base when they are not behind the plate.

Brodersen is expected to play mostly at second base, while Williams, sophomore Paige Benson and freshman Viana Vasseau are competing for innings at first base.

NEWTON SOFTBALL | 4B

L-S golf finalizes season at districts

Newton News

ANITA — The Lynnville-Sully boys' golf team's season ended on Monday during the Class 1A district tournament.

Lucas Sieck led the Hawks with an 89, but it wasn't enough to advance to the state tournament.

L-S brought two players to the par 71 Crestwood Hills Golf Course. Klayton Van Dyke carded a 108 and Sieck's nine-hole splits were 45-44.

Seth Hensley of CAM was the meet medalist with a 72 and Hamburg's Keith Thompson was the runner-up medalist with a 73.

South Hamilton won the district championship and advanced to state with a 318.

Host CAM (325) and Montezuma (328) also moved on to state in second and third, respectively.

L-S golfers compete in road quadrangular OSKALOOSA

Lynnville-Sully competed in a pair of Oskaloosa quadrangulars on May 4.

The boys, led by a trio of Hawks in sixth, seventh and eighth, were second in the standings and L-S girls had just one golfer in the field.

BGM shot 173 to win the boys' matchup and L-S shot 181 in second. Belle Plaine had a 188 in third and Iowa Valley carded a 195 in fourth.

The Belle Plaine girls won with a 216 and Iowa Valley had a 247.

L-S GOLF | 2B

Career-best score not enough for Newton's Pritchard

Newton News

PELLA — Newton junior Kinnick Pritchard matched his career-best score for 18 holes during a Class 3A district tournament at Bos Landen Golf Course on Monday.

Unfortunately for Pritchard, he fell two strokes short of advancing to the state tournament.

Williamsburg and Knoxville were the two qualifying teams with scores of 322 and 324, respectively.

Washington's Roman Roth was the meet medalist with an even-par 72. Oskaloosa's Jonathan Terpstra carded a 77 as the runner-up medalist.

Roth and Terpstra were the two individual state qualifiers from a non-qualifying team.

Pritchard's career-best 79 included nine-hole splits of 39-40.

Washington (328), Pella (337), Grinnell (341) and Oskaloosa (343) completed the six-team field.

The top two teams and the top two players from non-qualifying teams advanced to the 3A state tournament.



Troy Hyde/Newton News

Newton junior Kinnick Pritchard matched a career-best 79 at the Class 3A district tournament at Bos Landen Golf Course in Pella on Monday. It was two strokes shy of a state tournament berth.