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CARRYING ON. "I have the best of both worlds because I have ultra-talented golfers who are even better people. Success breeds success, so all the good teams that have done well in the past have set tradition for success for my current golfers to carry on," woman's golf coach Megan Youngkent said.

# Reunited team claims STATE TITLE

## OVERCOMING BOGEYS.

Swinging the club back, Alex Miller ('16), made a bogey on the first hole at South Hills but ended as medalist with a score of 42. "It was the first leg of our metro meets. I shot a 42, which tied me with Hailey Bermel for medalist. Everyone is returning this year, and I'm the only senior, so I have high hopes for what we can do with our season and at the state tournament," Miller said. Miller ended with an 18-hole average of 86.50 for the year, and the team won State. *Photo by Olivia Grant*



**SCORING HOLES.** Sending the ball toward the hole, Mackenzie Roberts ('17) gets the ball in at the first round metro meet at South Hills. She ended with an 18-hole average of 86.25. Later at the state meet, she shot 165 over two days to contribute to the CFHS title. *Photo by Leah Forsblom*



**DRIVING FORWARD** Driving the ball toward the first hole, Clare Rolinger ('18), starts off the first metro meet at South Hills confidently. She ended her season with an average of 94.00 on the 18 hole. "Golf season is one of my favorite times of the year. My teammates are family to me. They never fail to make me laugh, and I always have a good time with them, regardless of how I play out on the course. I love my team, and I love this sport," Rolinger said. *Photo by Bree Zubrod*

**SWINGING HIGH.** Showing off early season leadership that would later be evident with the second lowest score at the state meet, Hannah Bermel ('17) holds a baseball grip onto her club as gets the ball closer to the next hole at South Hills Golf Club. She shot a 49, and ended her season with an 18-hole average of 80.50. "We just wanted to show everyone that we weren't going to back down and would come back even better this year. We have had a great year," Bermel ('17) said. *Photo by Olivia Grant*

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**SISTER SPORT.** Holding the flag, Hailey Bermel ('17) stands watching her sister, Hannah Bermel ('17), as she puts the ball at a Pheasant Ridge meet. Hailey and Hannah led Cedar Falls with rounds of 81 and 82. These scores qualified them to play for the individual state championship. "Golf is something that brings my family together and something that we will always have in common," Bermel said. Photo by Vanessa Kime



**SWINGING METRO.** Swinging the club back on the first hole on April 13 at the first metro meet at South Hills is Taylor Sennett ('17). In this meet, she was runner up after shooting a 45. Sennett ended her season with an 89.50, 18-hole average. "This year, we have everyone back. We've put in a lot of hard work, and it's fun to see how much we've all improved," Sennett said. Photo by Bree Zubrod

# ALL IN THE FAMILY

## For twin sisters, love of golf has deep roots from home

The intense quiet and piercing eyes are nothing new for junior twins Hailey and Hannah Bermel. Lining up a chip shot or piercing a golf ball through the air is an old game for the twins who have been around golf literally their entire lives.

Growing up in a family of all golfers, it wasn't rocket science to figure that the twins would follow suit, and that's exactly what they did. "They probably started golfing at three," Tracy Bermel, the twins' mother, said. "I can remember them riding around on the golf cart in their car seats."

Alongside the twins, there are also three other Bermels who are no strangers to golf. The two older siblings, Jake and Abby, both played at Cedar Falls and The University of Northern Iowa where they were coached by their father, who is the head coach up at UNI.

Abby is in the CFHS hall of fame and made first team All State. She is now married to Adam Luehmann who used to be the assistant pro at Pheasant Ridge Golf course under their father, John Bermel.

Jake, their older brother, also played at Cedar Falls, made first team All State and went on to play at the University of Northern Iowa under his father. After just graduating, Jake planned to be an assistant pro under his father once he passed all the requirements to do so. The Bermel's youngest, Ben, was a freshman this year and played his first season with the varsity golf team, making an impressive statement.

The twins, however, continued to shine and rise to the occasion when they were needed most. Playing varsity since their freshman year, they learned a lot of what it means to lead a team and improve their own game along with their leadership. Their freshman year, they came onto a team that had just lost six seniors, and it was time to start rebuilding. It was a tough task and season, but Hailey made first team All Conference, and Hannah made second team. Their sophomore year was much better as they had already gained a year of experience at the varsity level. They added two girls who really helped out the team, and both Hannah and Hailey received first team All Metro. They made it to State and both made second team All State.

"This year has been a ton of fun," Hailey said. "Hannah and I are both playing very well, and we're super excited for this part of the season where we get to compete with some of the best and shoot for the top."

This year along with last year, the top six girls on the team made All Metro,

which only hold six spots, so Cedar Falls claimed every single one of those spots for the second time in a row. "We're super competitive but obviously support each other. We even tell each other good job even when we don't want to," Hailey said, while she laughed, obviously joking around with her sister.

"Our dad's the best," Hannah said. "He's one of those people that after you have a bad round, you can go up to him, and all he does is point out all the good stuff you did. He'll take you out to the range, and in two seconds fix everything that needed to be fixed."

Their father, John, has a little more experience in the sport than just your average golfer. He's registered as a golf pro under the PGA, and he can play in professional golf events around the state where if he wins, he can get paid. He's actually qualified for the U.S. Senior Open. What's even more impressive is that John has played with both Arnold Palmer and Phil Mickelson, two of the most well known names in the sport.

"Having a family that loves golf is nice," Hailey said. "It's always something we can talk about, and most of the time in the summer, the Golf Channel is on the TV, even if we don't know who's playing."

Golf isn't exactly a seasonal sport for the Bermels. The sport most definitely doesn't slow down in the summer because Hailey, Hannah and Ben are still in full swing when it comes to summer tournaments.

They are involved in something called the Iowa Junior Tour, and at most there can be two tournaments a week all over Iowa. In the summer, they can focus on themselves as individual golfers.

"In the summer, it's all you," Hannah said. "There's no team to compete with, just yourself. It's all about improving your own skills and competition."

Both girls look to possibly continue their talents at UNI but are open to anything at this point.

"Golf is a lifelong sport," Hannah said. "I think that's why I love it so much. There will never be an age where I can't go out and play a few holes."

"It's something I can do with my family all the time who I love more than anybody," Hailey said. "It truly brings our family closer than one might think possible. It allows me to spend more time with the people I care most about."

by Nathan Hoy

**Women's Golf 159**  
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