



Angle Of Approach

Young golfers gain skill and confidence

A 525 dogleg fairway. White stakes that mark the hazardous trees unplayable. A lethal water hazard beckons in the distance. Deep-sunken bunkers enclose the green. And that was just the first hole. "One hole can ruin a round," Chad Rubin '14 said. "It changes the outcome."

Kyle Jenkins '17 mentioned the challenges of playing an unfamiliar course. "We know Finkbine pretty well, so we can factor that into how our next shot is going to be," he said. Unfamiliar courses, bunkers, water and other hazards tend to lead to a more cautious game, according to the golfers. "Sometimes you have to play more conservative if you don't know what's coming up on the next hole," J.D. Goodfellow '16 said.

Besides course difficulty, playing at a lower meet ranking created stress and sometimes affected scores. Playing a No. 1, 2 or 3 encouraged a more competitive mindset, Grant Higgins '15 said. Noah Federici '15 agreed. "When you're playing with some of

the better kids from better schools, it's pressure. But you just have to stick to your own game," he said. Season highlights ranged from playing with friends and having fun for Rubin to beating City High in a dual match for Goodfellow. "It felt good to beat our rivals," Goodfellow said. "We've never lost to City since I've been in high school." Golfers need to keep their focus during rounds, and Goodfellow said he typically would repeat a song in his head. Higgins used a more traditional approach. "Don't think about the wrongs—just think about the rights," he said. Overcoming mental obstacles can be the most challenging aspect of golf. For Higgins, focusing on doing his best—and not stressing over what's going wrong—seemed to help. Federici agreed. "You just have to pretend you're on the driving range," he said. "That's what I do." Negativity can sometimes accumulate and begin to affect one's score, according to Goodfellow. "You have to be confident in yourself," he said. "After a bad hole you just have to get a whole new mindset and restart."

—By Aileen Weeks



1. A BREAK IN THE GREEN forces Grant Higgins '15 to read the putt on the third hole at Finkbine on Aug. 29. "I just try to clear my mind and see how fast the greens are," he said. Higgins earned Honorable Mention All-Conference.



2. IN FULL SWING, Noah Federici '15 advances the ball. "Because of hazards, you have to play smart if you don't know what's coming up next," he said. Federici was named Second Team All-Conference and Academic All-Conference.

3. ON THE GREEN, Highland's Chris Mellinger finishes a tap-in on the first hole at Finkbine on Sept. 23. The Trojans finished in second place with a score of 155.

4. A SHORT CHIP puts J.D. Goodfellow '16 feet from the pin. "You just have to be confident in yourself," he said. "Negativity affects your score."

5. ALL LINED UP, J.D. Goodfellow leaves the fifth green with a par Aug. 29. "Putting is the most important part of golf. A 3-inch putt is worth the same as a 300-yard drive," he said.

6. PURE CONCENTRATION helps prepare Chad Rubin '14 for a short putt on the first green on Finkbine Sept. 23. "Staying focused is really hard," Rubin said.



OUTCOMES	
MVC Super	272/5th
Muscatine Invite	341/4th
West Invite	341/4th
Cedar Falls/CR Prairie	155/2nd
Iowa City High	321/1st
Dub. Wahlert/Linn-Mar	176/3rd
CRANDIC	321 /5th
CR Wash/Dubuque Sr.	115/2nd
MVC Divisionals	383/4th
Linn-Mar/Dubuque Hempstead/CR Xavier	159/3rd
MVC Divisionals	335/3rd
MVC Quad	169/2nd

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Boys Golf 043

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