

GOONE

with the WIND

The boys golf team battles rough weather at state

Senior Blake Singbush tee'd his ball up on the tee box of the 17th hole, approaching his first hit of the last high school state tournament he would ever participate in. Around him, everything was quiet, except the howling wind that had been pounding Marion, Iowa, for the past few hours.

The road to state was one with few bumps. The team had been ranked seventh for the majority of the season.

The district meet was a test for some of the team. "At the end of the day you need someone that gets up there and plays the way we need them to," senior Jake Campbell said. "[Senior Korbin] Sesker did just that. He put us on his back and got us there."

The team placed third, behind Valley and Ankeny Centennial. "At districts we had a lot of seniors step up and post good scores," Sesker said.

"We were very comfortable with the guys we were sending to state," head coach Steve Smith said. "Throughout the season we had many

serious practices that weren't easy, but definitely made us better."

On the ride to the meet, the nerves began to set in. "We were all nervous beyond what you can imagine," Campbell said. "It was emotional for the seniors because it was our last meet; realistically, only a few of us would get the chance to play in college, and that would be if we chose that path."

Despite the nervousness, the team knew that together they could perform against the odds. "Our team chemistry was off the charts this year," senior Blake Singbush said. "Every single one of us knew what we wanted to achieve, and we went out and got it."

Winds in Marion on the days of the state tournament reached gusts of 40 mph, increasing the challenge. "The course is difficult on a normal day, with all of the hazards," Sesker said. "With the wind it was a whole different monster, but we had to just deal with it."

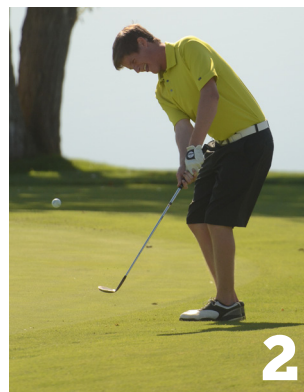
With the high winds, the team had to adjust their play style to better fit the

weather. "Instead of typically hitting the ball high, to avoid the wind we had to hit the ball lower," junior Sam Buckley said. "But really we just tried to have fun and go out and 'do you.'"

During the state tournament, the torrential winds made playing a challenge. "We didn't have people shooting their best scores until [senior Jordan] Kleinschmidt did on the second day," Campbell said. Kleinschmidt and junior Alex Burns ended up shooting a 164, the lowest score on the team.

Oct. 12 the tournament drew to a close. Johnston finished in eighth place, with a score of 655. "We really learned to enjoy the time we had together and make things fun with what we had," Campbell said.

After sinking his last putt, Singbush walked off of the state course for the final time. "Playing at state overwhelmed any feeling of disappointment from the meet," Singbush said. "I will admit, some man tears may have come out."



Spread by Tyler Fenton and Kelsey Acheson

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Even Page

Job # 3292 School Johnston High School

Special Instructions

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Senior Ryan Rubin places his ball on the green at the duel meet against Urbandale at Jester Park. Rubin had a low 9-hole score of 41 for the season and a low 18-hole score of 87.
Photo by Joe Sprunger



"I hated missing school for golf. I'd try to get ahead and then I would go to a golf meet and be behind again."

Photo by Tyler Fenton

1. With sand flying, junior Sam Buckley hits his ball out of a bunker at Jester Park Golf Course. "I just don't think and just swing through the sand with confidence," Buckley said.
Photo by Laura Schwartz

2. Junior Alex Burns chips onto the second hole to a back pin placement. Burns shot a 40 at the Legacy Golf Course in the Dowling Catholic meet.
Photo by Laura Schwartz

3. At the Legacy Golf Club, senior Blake Singbush chips a shot onto the green. "The key for those shots is to put the ball at the back of the stance," Singbush said.
Photo by Laura Schwartz

4. Sophomore Ryan Vaden scans the 18-hole Jester Park fairway before taking a swing. Vaden ended the season with a 18-hole low score of 83.
Photo by Kelsey Acheson

5. In the midst of a backswing, senior Michael Hanstad tees off at Willow Creek Golf course for the Valley Meet. Hanstad golfed a 85 on the 18-hole course.
Photo by Kelsey Acheson

6. Senior Jordan Kleinschmidt leans into his swing at the conference meet. "The best part is becoming friends with kids from the other schools," Kleinschmidt said.
Photo by Tyler Fenton

Special Instructions