

Girls' golfers compete

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

While rainy weather has certainly affected the girls' golf team schedule this spring, seven local girls did compete in Fort Morgan last week, and two golfed in Wray Monday, April 20.

Although he didn't have full team results from Fort Morgan, coach Garrett Gordon said he would like to recognize Shayna Oosthuysen for shooting a 58. This was her first tournament and her first completed nine holes of golf.

Also going to Fort Morgan were Sianna Gomez, Jordan Zeiler, Alyssa Roll, Briar Bergner, Laura Gerke and Mallory Purnell.

Gerke and Zeiler played at Wray Monday, and both shot 60, which was five shots better than any of their previous best tournament scores, said Gordon.

Holyoke golfers will be at home for two upcoming meets. Gordon said they'll be hosting a small tournament at Holyoke Golf Course Thursday, April 23, starting at 3 p.m.

The highly acclaimed Ballyneal Golf Club in Holyoke is hosting a Women's Invitational Golf Tournament Tuesday, April 28 featuring 20 of the best women's high school teams in the state.

Participants include three of the state's top eight 5A teams and three of the top six 4A teams. Ballyneal is one of the highest ranked courses in the state and features a championship 18-hole links layout by acclaimed course architect Tom Doak.

Ballyneal assistant golf pro and invitational coordinator, as well as the HHS girls' coach, Gordon said, "Typically we only see this many of the state's top teams at state and regionals, so it's a deep field and a larger field of teams than the typical invitational."

Asked why this tournament has attracted so many of the state's top teams, Gordon said, "No one wants to pass up an opportunity to play on a course ranked eighth best in the country!"

Teams competing in this first Ballyneal women's invitational include Brush, Burlington, Cherry Creek, Colorado Academy, Evergreen, Fairview, Fleming, Fort Morgan, Greeley Central, Holyoke, Kent Denver, Limon, Regis Jesuit, Skyline, St. Mary's, Sterling, Valor Christian, Windsor, Wray and Yuma.

Trophies will be awarded to the top three teams and to the individual with the lowest score. The winning schools will receive a trophy for their school's trophy case and Ballyneal will keep a trophy in the clubhouse engraved with the year and the name of the winning team for what the club hopes will be an annual tournament.

"Our kids are really excited about playing Ballyneal," said Colorado Academy women's golf coach Beth Folsom. "Our boys have played in the tournament the last two years and word has gotten around school about what a great course it is! They know this will be one of the more challenging courses they have seen, but are very much looking forward to the trip."

Windsor High School girls' golf coach Jeff Herring said, "We play golf courses during the season that are similar to each other. Ballyneal will test the player's ability to make different choices and different shots."

Ballyneal has received much critical acclaim, notably being ranked eighth on Golfweek's 2009 Best Modern Courses list, 53rd in the world by a U.K. ranking service called Top 100 Courses and was Travel + Leisure Golf's Best New Course in 2006.