

# THE PLAIN DEALER

Wednesday, June 16, 2010  
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## OFF THE GREEN

Nine questions with Nicki Henry, an incoming senior at Kenston High School who has a 3-handicap and is competing in the 32nd annual Hudson Junior Invitational at the Country Club of Hudson. The two-day event concludes today. Henry is in a tie for 21st place after rounds of 82-82—164. Henry, The Plain Dealer's reigning Golfer of the Year, placed sixth at the event last year and was the top local finisher. She tied for 10th place last fall at the rain-shortened Division I state tournament with a 78 on the Ohio State Gray Course. It concluded a season in which she averaged 78.8 for 18 holes, and 39.0 for nine. Henry is being recruited by several Division I schools, and plans to make a decision this fall.

Age: 16.

Residence: Chagrin Falls.

**1. What's different about your game since last June when you competed at the Hudson Junior Invitational?**

"I'm a little longer and more accurate. I worked out a lot over the winter, lifting weights and doing cardio exercise. I have a lot more strength and stability over the ball."

**2. How many yards were you able to add?**

"About 10 yards."

**3. What's your average summer like?**

"I play in a lot of national tournaments. It's much more competitive than last year. I'd like to play golf in college, so I want a more national presence. I'll be playing in American Junior Golf Association tournaments."

**4. Do you have a big summer goal?**

"I'm going to try to qualify for the PGA Junior Golf Championships [she will play in a two-day qualifier at Sweetbriar Golf Club at the end of June] and the USGA Junior Championship [she has a one-day qualifier later this month]."

**5. And you have time for a job?**

"I work a summer job as a caddie at Barrington Golf Club in Aurora. This will be my third year. It's a lot of fun."



Henry

**6. I understand you raise money through golf? Tell us about your fundraising program.**

"It's called Birdies Fore ALS. I started doing it when my grandmother,

Carol Dovishaw, was diagnosed with ALS in February 2009. There's not much research going on with ALS. It's a horrible disease, so I decided to count my birdies and have families and friends support me. I found a group called Bright Side of the Road Foundation, which gives the money to the Cleveland Clinic's ALS research program." (Henry had 55 birdies last year and about 50 donors and said she raised more than \$10,000. Log on to [nickihenry.com](http://nickihenry.com) to visit her website).

**7. What's your best golf tip you can share?**

"Practice. Practice makes all the difference. If you don't practice a lot you won't get very far."

**8. How much do you practice?**

"I try to go out every day. I might miss a day or two a week, but during the summer I'm out there every day. During school it's harder."

**9. What's in your bag?**

"I hit all TaylorMade clubs. I have R7 irons and a burner driver."

— From staff reports

She played  
with a heavy heart  
in Loving Memory  
Carol Dovishaw  
2/9/1938 - 6/11/2010

