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Kenston Golfers Start Season with Record Performances

By Dan Murray

First-year Kenston girls' golf coach Kip Freeman knew his team had potential but he may not have known just how well it would start off the 2010 season.

How about a new school record for 18 holes by an individual, a new team record score for 18 holes and yet another new record for a team nine-hole score. That's the kind of play that has Freeman, the longtime pro at Punderson Golf Course, speculating just how far Kenston can go in the post-season tournaments.

"We have three freshmen on varsity, a junior and two seniors," said Freeman. "If the younger players come around I think we have a shot to get to state."

Leading the way again this season is four-year standout Nicki Henry, who is playing some of her best golf to start off the school year. Henry shot a new school record of two-under 67 at the Kent State Course, breaking her own mark by six shots.

That amazing round came during the Chagrin Valley Conference Pre-Season Tournament, which Kenston won with a team score of 327. That total was 10 shots lower than the previous mark.

Junior Tess Ferguson shot an 84 in that event while freshman Kelly Poe finished at 87 and senior Ali Read got in with a round of 89.

The Bombers had another solid showing at the Eagle Invitational held at Candywood Golf Course as Henry tied for first place with a round of one-over par 73. Ferguson also broke 80 with a round of 79 while Poe shot 91 and Read added a 94. Kenston's team score of 337 was good for second place out of 28 teams.

Henry's 73 led the team to a sixth place out of 26 teams at the Magnificat Invitational held at Sweetbriar. Read shot 86, Poe finished at 91 and Ferguson shot 96 for a team score of 346.

Henry's round of 75 placed her second among all individuals at the Padua Invitational held at Pine Hills. Poe shot a solid 83, Ferguson had an 86 and freshman Tyler Bacon added a 103.

The Bombers were second behind Hudson in another tournament at St. Denis Golf Course under less than ideal weather conditions. Henry shot an 80 to tie for second, Ferguson posted an 88 and Read and Poe both finished with 99s.

Kenston also picked up two huge dual meet wins over Orange and Solon. The Bombers edged CVC rivals Orange 184-189 at Punderson as Henry shot 41, Read had a 44, Ferguson posted a 46 and Poe added a 53.

Henry's medalist effort of 38 keyed a 169-184 victory over Solon as the team set a new record for nine holes with a 169 total at Grantwood. Poe shot 43 while Read and Ferguson added rounds of 44 in the win.

Kenston is primed for the CVC Tournament Sept. 22 at Gleneagles. After that, the tournament trail begins with a trip to Columbus a possibility.

"This is my rookie year and I'm enjoying it very much," said Freeman. "This is a group of nice kids and they have a lot of potential."