

Saints Golf Team Boosters:

It was a very busy month on local golf courses for all levels of Saints golfers. We have a total of 41 golfers on the team, broken down into Varsity A with 9 players coached by Tom Isaak, and Jess Wilson, Varsity B/JV with 16 players coached by Christian da Luz and assisted by Jess Wilson, and a Developmental team with 16 players, coached by Bill Davis. The 9 players who made Varsity A: Luis Calderon (Saints 2014), Johnny Zizzi (2015), Ryan Martin (2015), Collin McNichol-Carter (2015) Louis Molina (2015), Robert Case (2016), Teddy Oitzman (2016), Brandon Michaels (2017), and Haytham Yousif (2017). All players who end the year on the Varsity A roster will earn a Varsity letter, as will the top three players from the Varsity B team. With only 5 seniors among the 41 players, the Saints Golf Team is a very young team that is off to a great start in 2014.

- The Varsity A team currently has an overall record of 7-4 and is 4-0 in Western League.
Highlights of the month:
 - beating Cathedral Catholic on their home course of The Santaluz Club;
 - shooting 3 over par as a team (the best team score in over 3 years in relation to par) in a victory over Coronado at Miramar GC;
 - a tie with 5 time defending CIF Champion Torrey Pines with a solid score of 185 (5 over par as a team) at Riverwalk;
 - beating defending Western League Champion La Jolla High School by 10 strokes with an even par team round at Miramar, improving our score from the Coronado match even further!

- In various matches, the following Varsity A players were Medalist for having the lowest score of the day on either team: Brandon Michaels (4 times), Luis Calderon (2 times), Johnny Zizzi (2 times) Collin McNichol-Carter (1 time), Teddy Oitzman (1 time), Ryan Martin (1 time).

- At the San Diego Country Club High School Invitational on March 20th, Saints finished 2nd place in the 8 team field, ahead of Cathedral Catholic and La Jolla High. With only Torrey Pines ahead of our team, the Saints Golf Team showed we will be a factor later in the year at the CIF-San Diego tournament. San Diego Country Club's difficult greens were clearly the 'victor' on the day as the high school golfers struggled with putting throughout the round. *Thanks go out again to Mike Zizzi for arranging the event so that high school golfers would have this opportunity to play one of the very best golf courses in Southern California.*

- The Varsity B team currently has a record 5 wins against 5 losses, playing against other varsity teams. Players on the Varsity B team who earned Medalist honors this month: Tyler Whittaker (Saints 2017), Sam Flaming (Saints 2015) and Jose Lopez (Saints 2016). With 20 matches planned for the Varsity B team, many young players will be getting the opportunity to compete against other varsity teams from around the county in match situations. As a bonus, on April 15th, any player on Varsity B who has outperformed a Saints Varsity A player in matches over the first six weeks of the season can be 'brought up' to the Varsity A team on April 15th for the remainder of the year to participate in CIF competition down the stretch.

- The JV team is currently 2-0 in competitions. The JV players are part of the same roster of players as on the Varsity B team. This allows for a 'team ladder' that is updated weekly based on players most recent 5 scores. The ladder is very fluid and as a result, hard work, dedication and good scores can be rewarded by a higher position on the team ladder.

- The Developmental Team is 1-0 so far this season. Similar to how the JV players compete to move up to the Varsity B roster, the Developmental team players can move up to the JV roster if their scores dictate. Also, some of the JV matches allow us to combine the lower end of our JV ladder with the upper players from the Developmental ladder to foster more team interaction. The Developmental Team is guided each Friday at Balboa GC by Coach Bill Davis.

Things to watch for in April:

- Five members of the Varsity A team will head to Terra Lago GC in the Palm Springs area to compete in The Champions Invitational. This is the biggest high school event in the western United States, featuring over 40 teams and 240 golfers from 10 states and two teams coming from Canada. On April 4th our team will play 36 holes of golf; teams are re-paired on April 5th for the last round of golf. With our team's strong early season start, this competition will toughen us up for the end-of-year CIF competitions;
- On April 24th and 25th, all members of the Saints Golf Team will have the opportunity to play a 36 hole intra-squad event. Coach da Luz will be splitting the team into a Purple roster and a Gold roster to have a Ryder Cup style match. In the first round, team members will compete in a best ball format at Miramar GC; the competition will then head over to Barona GC on the second day for an alternate shot match. Since these formats are played regularly at golf clubs everywhere, it will be a good way to gain experience and have fun, regardless of where a player is positioned on the Saints roster.

Final thought:

As we in the middle of the season and having many opportunities to get our players in matches throughout the city, I hear from other coaches about the tight budget for their team restricting their opportunities to play as much as preferred. The players, parents, and coaches involved with Saints Golf are very thankful for the alumni, boosters, and parents who have been so generous with donations, buying raffle tickets, auction items, and playing at the Mt. Woodson event. The money we raised allow us to offer the best golf program in San Diego to our players so that they can learn about golf in a competitive and fun manner. All of the special events mentioned in this newsletter (41 players on the roster playing in over 60 total matches, Champions Invitational, Saints Ryder Cup) and golf items that our team is fortunate to use (bags for all 41 players, Saints logo golf balls, tees, divot tools, head covers) are only possible through the support shown by those of you reading this newsletter. "Thank you" – from all of us.

Coach Isaak