

Saints golf team boosters,

Golf season update:

Varsity:

With the 2017 golf season well under way, the 36 players on the Varsity, JV and Developmental teams have had a busy spring. Currently ranked #18 overall in San Diego County and playing in Western League, Saints has had two tough league losses against Cathedral Catholic and La Jolla High School but hopes to rebound against Patrick Henry and Coronado in upcoming matches. The varsity is led by seniors Haytham Yousif (#1 on the team in scoring average), Tyler Whittaker (#2), Matthew Pins (#5), and Aidan Clement (#6) while junior Garrett Whitton (#3) has been posting improving scores throughout the season. 10th graders Alex Leon (#4) and Liam Hudson (#7) have been playing in the majority of the varsity events and getting valuable experience to continue their improvement. Others seeing extended varsity action this year are sophomores Diego Gonzalez and Rodrigo Bremer along with seniors Liam Maguirre and Jake Gammon. With a schedule against top teams throughout San Diego, each match has provided tough competition as we prepare for CIF competition beginning with City League at Balboa Golf Course on May 1st and 2nd, City Match Play the following week, and San Diego CIF at Admiral Baker Golf Course on May 16th and 18th.

A highlight of the season was hosting the 5th Annual San Diego Country Club High School Invitational on March 23rd. Featuring 8 top teams from throughout San Diego and 4 selected individuals, the SDCC event is the premium high school golf event held during the season. Haytham Yousif finished in 5th place with a solid 75 on the difficult layout featuring the best and most difficult greens in the area. Tyler Whittaker (79) and Garrett Whitton (81) also had strong finishes that led our team to a 4th place finish overall. Rancho Bernardo, a perennial top team in San Diego, won the event by a stroke over a young Steele Canyon team.

Junior Varsity:

The JV team has played in 11 matches so far this season, experiencing a wide variety of courses throughout San Diego including: Cottonwood, Riverwalk, Miramar, Oaks North, and Steele Canyon. The JV program offers our younger players a chance to work on their games under match conditions while meeting golfers from other schools. With nine matches and three season-ending JV tournaments still to come, including the opportunity to play Rancho Santa Fe CC and the Country Club of Rancho Bernardo, the JV players have a great chance to learn about golf in general while finding out what areas of their own games need to be improved. With six of our players on the overall team ladder seniors this season, the JV players will have the golden opportunity to make varsity next year if they work on their games between now and next season.

Developmental Team:

The developmental team meets each Friday at Balboa GC or Sycuan GC and is led by Bill Davis and Tom Graciano. Many on the team are new to golf and are finding out what it will take to improve their games to the point where they are ready to come out for the JV team next year. The top players on the developmental team also join the JV for rounds at Colina Park, Cottonwood, and Riverwalk so that they can see what the transition to the next level will require.

Saints golfing in college:

From winning the California State Championship in 2005 through many years of reaching CIF Regionals, St. Augustine has a strong tradition as a golf program that has sent many golfers on to collegiate golf programs. With a couple of our seniors on this year's team making their final decisions on where to golf next year, the tradition of Saintsmen golfing in college is sure to stay active going forward. There are currently several golfers continuing their careers in college; here is a quick update on them:

- Teddy Oitzman is a freshman who is using this season to redshirt for the defending National Champion University of Oregon Ducks, who are currently ranked #10 in the country
- Robert Case is a freshman competing on the University of Redlands team
- Collin McNichol is a sophomore at Gonzaga University and playing on their club travel team with the goal of trying out for the school's golf team next season
- Luis Calderon is a junior at California State – Northridge. After competing in the top five on the team in his first two years at CSUN, Luis used this year to redshirt to take extra classes towards his major. With two years of eligibility left starting next year, Luis will be back in competition starting in the fall

Extra news:

- In January, our team led the 8th grade class from St. Patrick's Elementary in an afternoon of learning about the basics in golf through sessions in putting, chipping, and hitting shots on the driving range. 'Thank you' goes to St. Patrick's and Saints alumnus Dan Morrin for sponsoring the event at Colina Park. It is a very fun way for our team members to give some of their knowledge and passion for golf to the 8th graders. A fun time was had by both schools!
- The 4th Annual Alumni vs Current Team match was held at Mt. Woodson GC in Ramona. Following four tight contests that led to a 2-2 standing heading into this year's match, the alumni were strong throughout the round this year in defeating the current roster. With a nice turnout of 12 alumni playing against 12 of our current team members, a fun time was had by all. The Purple Cup, donated, designed and built by Tom Graciano, is in the hands of the Alumni Team for a 3rd consecutive year.
- There are a few extra Saints golf team shirts in various colors and sizes left over and are for sale on a first come, first served basis. If you have any interest, just let me know and we can arrange a time for you to see what is available. All shirts will be sold for \$30 until they are gone.

Thank you again for all the support that has been provided to our team. With such a large team playing at so many venues, without the support given by alumni, family, and friends of the program, we would not be able to provide so many opportunities to all of the players.

Sincerely

Coaches Tom Isaak, Christian Da Luz, Bill Davis, Jess Wilson, and Tom Graciano

