



Golf team shows great improvement

By Megan Giffin

Pat McGonigle, the girls golf coach at WFHS, knew from the start of the 2008 season that she would have an exceptional team.

The team consists of two returning sophomores, Jasmine Phillips and Meredith Renfro, and new players including senior Jessica Brittingham and sophomores Margaret Dozier and Brittany Caldwell.

Despite the lack of experience, McGonigle said she still has high expectations for her girls. She asks that the girls try their very best to improve at each tournament or beat their best scores.

To help the girls out, she preaches small tips she thinks make the biggest difference. The team is told to focus on the short game.

Putting and chipping, remembering hand and club positions for different swings, and never looking at a bad player's swing technique so they don't adopt it as their own are a few things she has

the girls carry out.

There are some fundamentals that every golfer has to have in order to be successful. However, McGonigle also works with the girls individually and urges them to practice the small things that she has taught them one-on-one to enhance their game.

Perhaps the thing that is stressed the most is that the team has fun. Coach McGonigle notes, "The girls and I always have fun. We love to have a good time. One thing that always gets a big laugh is every time Margaret hits, she smiles. It was also exciting when Meredith hit over the pond the very first time she teed off and was never able to before."

The team has had some very memorable moments this season. The very first tournament held at Fort Scott, Renfro placed first.

The second tournament, at Alvarmar Country Club in Lawrence, every player improved their scores from the first tour-

namment with only two practices under their belts. Phillips also placed 18th at the Alvarmar tournament.

The coach said she wants to end this season by sending at least one of her players to state and most importantly, have every girl improve from their first tournament scores. She adds, "If that happens, it's a success."

Unfortunately, the girls weren't able to make it to State this year. Regionals were held in Osage City, Renfro missed the spot by 2 strokes. She says, "We didn't have very favorable weather conditions but I played my best and I'm happy with my performance." When asked about going to State next season Meredith smiles, "I'm definitely going."

As far as next season goes for the coach, she's looking forward to it.

"I want to have girls that can score really well, so we can be more competitive as a team," McGonigle said.



Jasmine Phillips puts during the WFHS Invitational.

Freshman runner improves her times on the way to State cross-country meet

By Jessica Brittingham

Falcon cross-country runner Taylor Slavens has had a good year.

Consistently finishing in the medal bracket during the regular season, Slavens has continued to improve weekly, improving her personal best times - and breaking school records in the process.

The freshman finished eighth Oct. 25 at the regional meet at Jayhawk-Linn in Mound City with a time of 17.46 for the 4,000-meter course. The run earned her a trip to compete at the state meet in Wamego on Nov. 1. This is only the second year that girls have run a 4,000-meter, or 4K, race, and that is the reason that Slavens has been

regularly setting new records, said Falcon cross country coach Jerald Johnson.

Although the freshman runner is WFHS's only representative at the State meet, it has been a good year for the rest of the team too. Seniors Hannah Milton, Michelle Nelson and Vicki Boor and juniors Amanda Sharp and Cody Reed, are also on the team.

Milton and Boor have been competitive in varsity meets while Reed has notched at least one junior varsity win. Johnson said what he mostly expects for the team is that they try their best to run better each tournament and he also hopes they medal.

The team ran four to six

miles a day up and down hills and along country roads to train.

Milton has been in the sport for four years, Boor and Sharp three years, Nelson two years, and this is the first year for both Slavens and Reed.

They have all medaled at least once.

At the Oct. 2 meet at Central Heights, Slavens placed sixth and Milton placed 12th. Slavens placed ninth at the Osage meet, Sharp was 18th followed by Milton at 19th and Boor at 22nd. Reed won the boys junior varsity race and Michelle Nelson placed second in the girl's junior varsity



Freshman Taylor Slavens runs past supporters during the league meet near Pomona Lake.



Junior Cody Reed at the league meet near Pomona Lake.