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CHAMPIONSHIPS**



STATE CHAMPS



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Wayne golf team closes out record setting year

By Kevin Peterson

The 2024 version of the Wayne High girls golf team etched their name in the history books not for just being the third team in school history to win state but for resetting the bar for excellence. Josh Johnson's quintet posted the best score in school history at a state tournament by some 25 strokes with a sub-700 two-day score at Lake Maloney in North Platte.

They also notched a school record 18-hole tournament score during the regular season at 336. The team of Joslyn Johnson, Carli Canham, Charli Sievers, Lindsay Niemann and Hallie Heithold remained laser focused throughout the season. Every team's goal is to win a state championship but that topic was rarely discussed throughout the year with the focus on improving each time out, individually and team wise.

Time to give some credit to the coach. Granted, he's not the one hitting the driver, the irons and the putts but he is the guiding force behind the storybook finish. Josh Johnson began his golf coaching career in the fall of 2008 with the Blue Devils. It took him four seasons to build a state competing caliber team that would finish state runner-up in 2011. He's had multiple state qualifying teams before the 2024 season including all five of this year's starters returning from last year's fifth place finish at State.

Yes, in the back of his mind and the minds of many others, a state title was not out of the concept of reality but much work would have to be done, especially off-season work. The girls stepped up. This team improved by 74 strokes from last season's state meet on the same golf course.

This year's state meet quickly turned in to a two-team race with Minden and Wayne. The Whippets held a six stroke lead after the first day of competition but Wayne would erase that in short time on day two. Eventually, the Blue Devils reached a double digit advantage but Minden fought back and regained the advantage with just a few holes remaining.

Joslyn Johnson, the team leader all season in scoring average and playing in the second to final grouping and paired with Minden's KayLynn Jorgensen closed out the final four holes of the tournament in historic fashion with a birdie and three pars to play one-under with the pressure on. Jorgensen played great in both rounds but finished the same four holes in two-over par, a three-stroke swing in Wayne's favor. Johnson stuck her tee shot on the par three, 17th hole with in two feet of the hole and promptly made birdie. She was the only golfer among the 93 playing that played the final four holes under par.

Each of the five golfers for Wayne had successful outings including Carli Canham's career low 78 on day one which put her in the final pairing on day two with the state champion Kara Suchsland of Minden. Charli Sievers carded a 98 on day one but took matters to heart on day two and delivered in a monumental way with a team-best 82. Lindsay Niemann was very consistent for the champs with a 92 on day one and improved with a 90 on day two. She came with in one stroke of a state medal. Hallie Heithold has played the number five position all season and after a sluggish start on day two, set the tone for the rest of the day with a score of 97 to place her in the top half of the field. Heithold's 47 on the back nine was nine strokes better than what she carded on day one.

Now back to coach Johnson. It can be mentally tough to prepare your team all season to reach the pinnacle of success, especially when you have your daughter as

See Wayne, page 3



the number one player on the squad. As head coach you have to not only instruct swing concepts, putting strategy and just general course management but you also have to have an ability to play psychologist when needed and he did that to perfection.

Speaking of Johnson, it's safe to say he's the most decorated coach in the Wayne coaching ranks with five state championship bowling teams, one state championship golf team and one state-runner up. He's also led the mock trial teams to highly successful finishes.

A couple quick notes to honor the past champions and runners-up golf teams. The first ever team to win state in girls golf was in 1988 with coach Richard Metteer at the helm. Wayne defeated Cozad by six strokes led by Wayne's only state individual in girls golf with Holly Paige, carding an 84 to win by four strokes. Also on that team was Ann Perry who tied for runner-up honors with an 88. Jill Jordan was third on the team and Cher Reeg, fourth followed by Jessica Rothfuss.

Just 12 years later the Wayne girls returned to the top of the field as Dave Hix's team won the two-day title by 16 strokes over runner-up Gering. Amy Harder and Monica Novak led the way, tying for fifth place honors with Karla Keller, Kari Harder and Megan Summerfield following in order. Finally, the runner-up team in 2011 finished behind three-time state champions from Boone Central with Katlin Potter and Taylor Burke leading Wayne with top 15 finishes. Hannah McCorkindale, Brittney Peterson and Burgandy Roberts followed for the silver medalists.?



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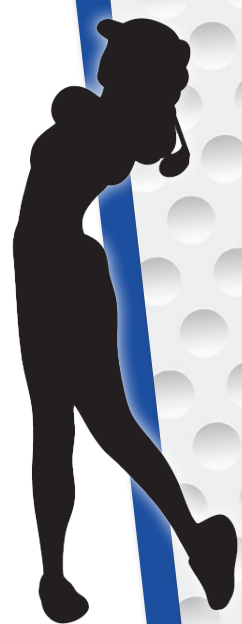
Class C State Champion



- Carli Canham**
- Hallie Heithold**
- Joslyn Johnson**
- Lindsay Niemann**
- Charli Sievers**
- Rylynn Owen (alternate)**
- Claire Reineke (alternate)**



Congratulations
to the Wayne
High girls golf
team on their trip
to State!



te
ons



STATE GOLF 2024

Congratulations

to the Wayne High and Laurel-Concord-Coleridge High girls golf teams on great seasons!



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GIRLS GOLF



2024 NSAA Class C Girls Golf STATE CHAMPIONS

Class C State Champs!

Charli

Hallie



Joslyn



Wayne High Girls Golf 2024

Carli



Lindsay

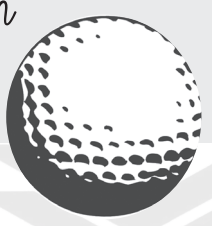




STATE GOLF 2024



Congrats to the Wayne High girls golf team!



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Great Season!



Congrats to the
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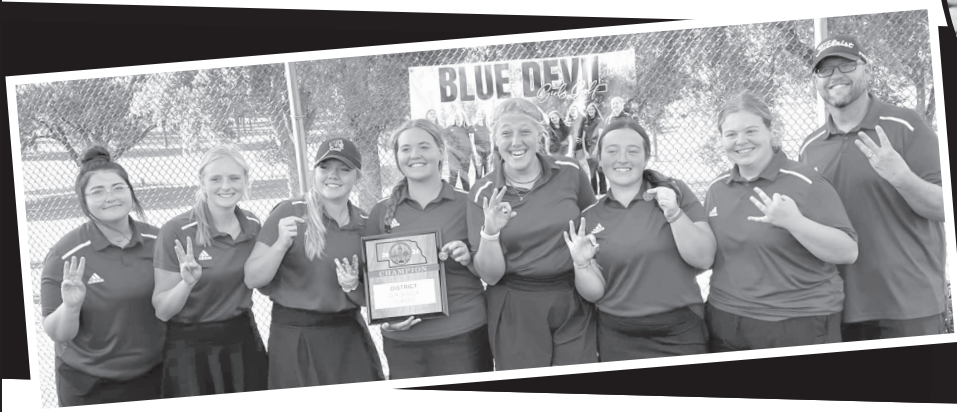
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Way to go Blue Devils!

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M
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 Productions

*And SPECIAL kudos to
 Mikey C's favorite niece,
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LCC Girls Golf 2024

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Congrats to the entire LCC Team on making it to the state tournament this year! I'm so proud of you!

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Danica



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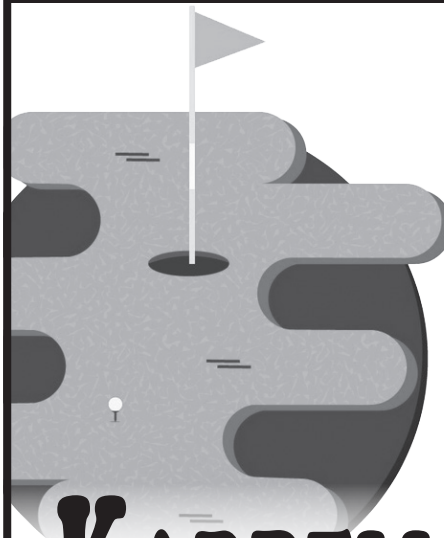
Holly



Great job at State, Laurel girls golf team!
Congrats to RyLynn Owen from Wayne!

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Clara



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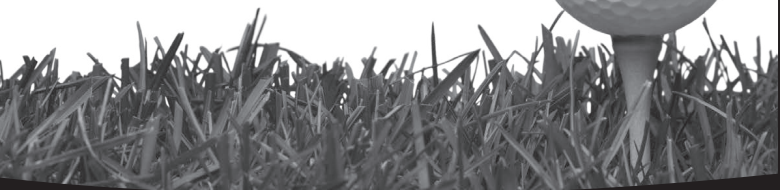
WAY TO GO! YAY!
YOU DID GREAT!
AMAZING JOB!
SUPER! CONGRATS!



CITY OF
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STATE GOLF 2024

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STATE GOLF 2024

Lady Bears finish seventh

By Mike Carnes

NORTH PLATTE — the Laurel-Concord-Coleridge girls golf team played well for two days and came home with a seventh-place finish in the Class C State Girls Golf Championships.

The Lady Bears shot a 394 on the first day and improved by 13 shots on the second day for a 381 to finish in the middle of the 15-team pack.

Clara Brummels just missed making it to the medal stand, finishing one shot off the pace with a 182. She shot 91 in both rounds to lead the way for the Lady Bears.

Following Brummels was Holly Patefield, who made a nine-stroke improvement with a 99 and a 93 for a 192. Harper Bruning shot double rounds of 100 for a 200, Skylar Swanson went 104-97 for a 201 and Danica Gould finished with a 239.

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