

Golfers bring some experience to links

Written by Deb Egenberger

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It has been a few years since the Gothenburg boys golf coach could say he's teeing off the season with five experienced team members.

That's what new Swede golf coach Don Graham has as the season kicks off at the North Platte Invite on Friday.

Five letter winners including one state meet qualifier return to the course for Gothenburg this spring.

"I look at last year's district meet and I see that Gothenburg was 10 strokes out of qualifying as a team for state," Graham said. "I sure think we can improve each player by 2 strokes and get there this year."

Graham has been the golf pro at Wild Horse Golf Club since 1999 and has taught countless golfers proper technique but this is his first shot at coaching a high school team.

"It's a little difficult with 22 golfers to spend much one-on-one time with them," Graham said.

GOLF SCHEDULE	
March 25—North Platte Invite, 9 a.m.	April 28—Holdrege Invite, 9 a.m.
March 31—DUAL WITH LEXINGTON, 4 p.m.	April 29—Dawson County at Cozad, 2:30 p.m.
April 5—at Broken Bow, 4:30 p.m.	April 29—Broken Bow Invite, 8:30 a.m.
April 7—DUAL WITH NORTH PLATTE ST. PAT'S, 3 p.m.	May 2—Cozad Invite, 2 p.m.
April 12—Lexington Invite, 10 a.m.	May 5—SWC at Valentine, 11 a.m.
April 14—DUAL WITH OGALLALA, 4 p.m.	May 8—Cozad Invite, 8:30 a.m.
April 15—Minden Invite (1), 1 p.m.	May 12—Ogallala Invite, 9 a.m.
April 21—GOTHENBURG INVITE, 9 a.m.	May 17—B-4 District at Geneva, TBA
	May 24-25—State meet at Kearney Country Club, TBA

That's the down side of a large team. The up side, he said, is that several inexperienced golfers, including nine freshmen, bring some skill to the course.

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“Mostly the season will come down to putting everything together,” Graham said. “We’ve got kids who figured a lot of things out toward the end of last year so the nucleus is there. We’ve just got to find some other kids to help out.”

Junior Jeramie VanAcker is back after finishing ninth at the district meet and qualifying for state as a sophomore.

Jackson Graham, Coltin Bebensee, Matthew Marshall and Alix Meisinger are also returning letter winners.

After placing second in the Southwest Conference meet last year by just one stroke and finishing sixth in the B-4 district 10 strokes from qualifying for state as a team, Graham is encouraged with nearly everyone coming back.

“I like our chances to do well,” Graham said.

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