

Sterling golfers look to get over second-place hump with 2016 squad

By MIKE COURSON
Dale Rose has had one of the top golf teams in Central Kansas over the past several seasons, especially the past three seasons. The Black Bears finished second in 3A last year, losing only to a Collegiate team that ran away with the state title by 33 strokes. In 2014, Sterling finished second in 2A, just two strokes from a trophy and 10 strokes from the win. The 2011 squad finished sixth in 3A, just four strokes

off the third-place trophy. The good news this year is two-fold: Sterling may have its toughest team yet, and powerhouse Collegiate has moved back to Class 4A. The Spartans have won nine of the last 10 3A/4A titles, missing only in 2012 as a 4A school. Rose has back his two best finishers from state last year. Senior Nick Schissler battled off and on for the No. 1 spot on the team last year but cemented his title as the No. 1 golfer with a fourth-place finish at state. Schissler placed 33rd at state as a junior. Schissler shot a 74 at state to miss the bronze by just two strokes. Col-

legiate's Camron Chugg won by four strokes and has graduated, and another top Collegiate player will make the move to 4A, making Schissler one of the top candidates for an individual title this spring. Sophomore Zach Schissler was the No. 3 golfer on the team last year. He finished 28th in his first state tournament, just three shots from a top-14 finish. Zach's story in 2016 will be extra inspiring as he looks to be one of the top golfers in Class 3A in spite of a battle with cancer. "He's a tough player and a tough young man," Rose said. "He's working hard." Sophomore Logan Gillespie made an immediate splash at state last year with a 37th-place finish. He tied then-senior Caleb Hendricks, Sterling's other top golfer at the time, with 86 strokes. Gillespie moves into the No. 3 spot on the team this year, making for a very formidable top-three. Rose took only five



The 2016 Sterling golf team is, front row from left: Nick Schissler, Dallas Lackey, Lucas Wiegel, Mac Thrasher, and Logan Gillespie. Back row: Lucas Briar, Brayden Hosman, Peter Settle, James McNutt, and Coach Dale Rose. Not pictured: Zach Schissler Clayton Bettenbrock. (photo by Mike Courson)

Sterling golf 2016

April 4	@Nickerson
April 7	@McPherson
April 18	HOME
April 21	@Ellinwood
April 28	@Hesston
May 2	@Cheney
May 6	@Marion & Hillsboro
May 10	CKL@Kingman
May 16	Regional TBA
May 23	State@Hesston

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