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D-G-F Boys Golfers Have A Strong Senior Presence

Kelsey Buchholz
Sports Writer



The 2018 Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton Rebels golf team is ready to hit the links. Well, that is once the snow clears and the grass greens up a bit.

This year the Rebels will benefit from two coaches playing an active role in player development. Tom Critchley returns for his third year and Joe O'Keefe is stepping on for his inaugural coaching campaign.

While having a strong senior presence on this year's team, DGF only returns one player after losing five to graduation last year, including perennial All-Conference contender Devon Tollefson. But that hasn't deterred the optimism of the squad.

"We feel we have a good core group and will be able to compete once we get a few meets under our belts," said O'Keefe.

The season tees up on April 10 for the first Heart O'Lakes meet of the year at Birchwood in Pelican Rapids. Perham, Hawley and Barnesville have recently reigned as the perennial powerhouses of the HOL, but meets are played for a reason and anything can happen.

Despite having limited competition experience and not having a true "home course," the Rebel golf team does not view it as a limitation but rather as an opportunity.



The Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton Rebels boys golf team members are, left to right, front row-Ian Nash, Jacob Osbjornson, Parker Vinje; back row-Wyatt Ladwig, Jacob Arends, Matthew Locklear and Julian Rheault.

"We think the maturity of our players can overcome that and have a successful season," O'Keefe said.

The senior experience will play in DGF's favor as they swing into the 2018 campaign. These golfers have had the time to adjust to the fluidity of their game, know their clubs and how they perform in different situations, and grow confidence in their abilities.

Although their experience in varsity golf is limited, the competition experience gained through other sports and their time in high school will still help them not be rattled as they step up to the tee box or ready to line up the three foot putt.

Golf is the one sport where it is not you versus another person, but you against yourself. On any given course, on any given day, anything can happen. And the Rebels have the right mindset going into the season.



D-G-F Girls Golfers Have The Drive To Compete

Kelsey Buchholz
Sports Writer



With a blanket of snow on the ground and weather struggling to even get close to the 50s, it is hard to think about golf season. Heck, it would be hard to find the white balls in the snow, but Rebels will challenge that notion and go out anyway. Rebels will dust off the clubs, take a few swings, and be the first ones out the moment grass appears. And that is why the Lady Rebels are excited to get into the swing of things this golf season.

This team has a "drive to compete and improve" noted, 10-year head coach, Matt Endreson. He and assistant Josh Argall, in his second year, are looking forward to the 2018 golf season. The Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton Lady Rebels are bringing back every girl from last year, including Heart O'Lakes All-Conference golfer Mercedes Wasfaret.

Wasfaret, a senior this year, will co-captain the squad with senior Ellie Balken. Rounding out the team are senior Emma McFarland, juniors Arica Trottier and Avery Eck, and sophomores Brenna Balken and Sophia Roll.

While there are only a couple named as captain, all the girls bring something to the team.

"Our seniors will carry our vision for the team," said Endreson. "Our other girls will be right there with them to achieve that goal of improvement."

Individually, a few Lady Rebels were able to find their groove and really compete last season. This year the aim is for everyone to keep moving forward.

The team goal is, "To get better and become more competitive each meet we go to," said Endreson. "I feel that we continue towards our goal as constantly improving our game and that starts at practice and on the range."

The strong work ethic, drive, motivation, and competitiveness will all work toward DGF's advantage when embracing the 2018 golf season. However, it is up to the weather to dictate how often



The Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton Rebels girls golf team members are, left to right, front row-Brenna Balken, Ellie Balken, Mercedes Wasfaret, Sophia Roll, Arica Trottier and Avery Eck. Not pictured is Emma McFarland.

they will see the range before the first meets kick off mid-April. And it is also dependent on the girls' approach to the season. Endreson believes they have what it takes to achieve the targets they have set for themselves.

"The girls need to be confident in their game and work to achieve the improvements desired."

Because it will not come easy. Perham and Hawley are targeted as top contenders in the Heart O'Lakes conference again. These perennial powerhouses seem to be "dialed in" from meet one. Last year Perham qualified six for all conference and Hawley took another three slots out of the fifteen allotted.

Wasfaret's game, however, has improved over the last few years as has her poise on the course. She consistently shot around 50 last year, knocking a few strokes off her game and providing a strong example for the rest of her teammates.

In addition to improvement, Endreson also hopes that the girls learn the enjoyment of the game of golf and all that comes with it. His passion for the sport or for coaching has not wavered.

"I absolutely love coaching this group of girls and am excited to hit the links with this team."



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