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# Raiders Go Into Season With Drive To Improve, Compete

By Kelsey Buchholz

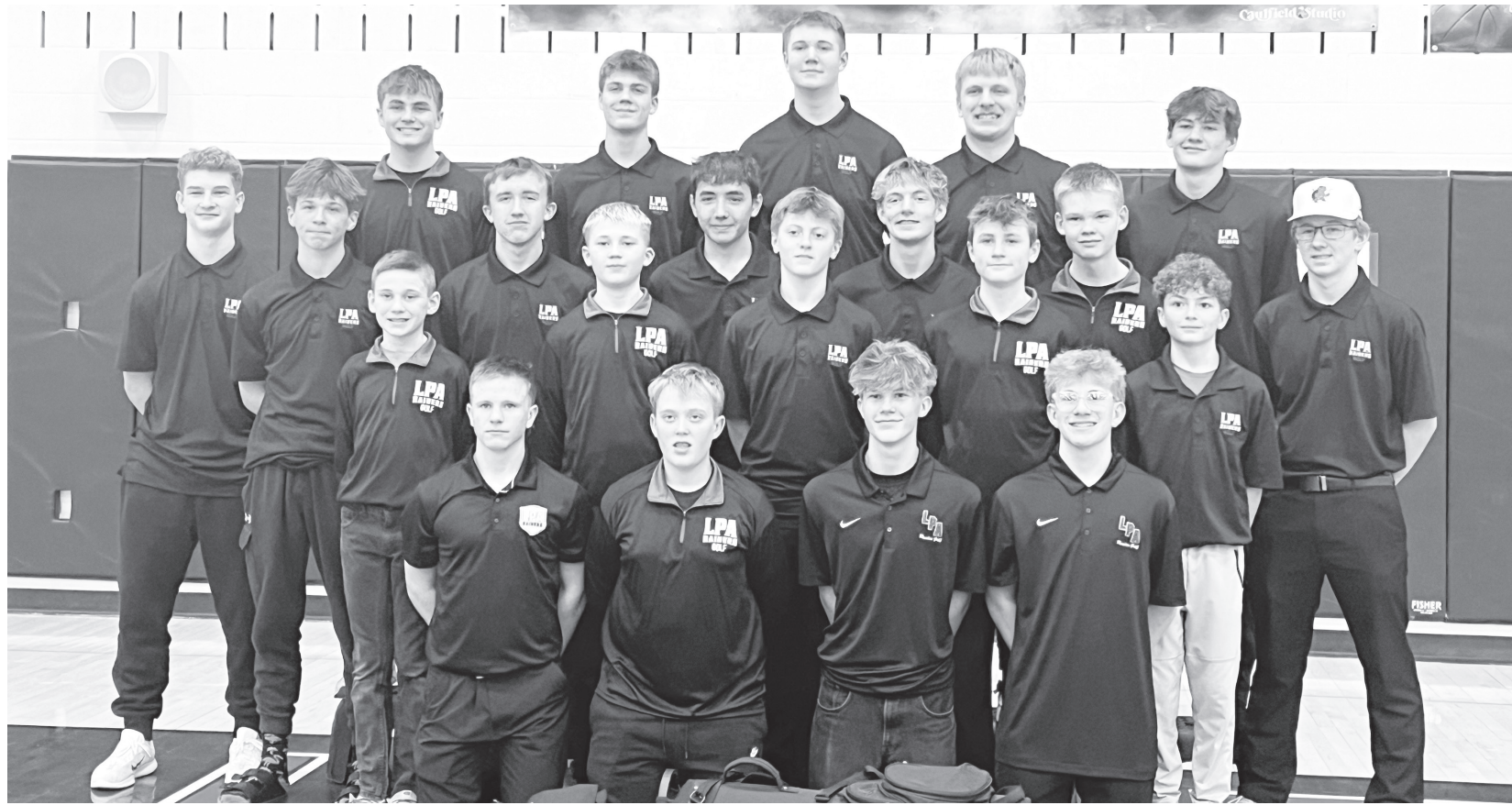
The Lake Park-Audubon Raiders boys golf team enters this spring season focused on growth and competitiveness under third-year head coach Landon Schultz.

Schultz, assisted by junior high coach Andrew Eklund, back for his fourth year, will rely on a group of returning juniors and seniors to lead the team. The potential is strong but the experience with the sport and in competition still needs to be developed.

“Our juniors and seniors will be our leaders,” Coach Schultz said. “They bring experience and have been in the program for multiple years.”

The Raiders’ goals this season center on steady improvement and consistency. Schultz emphasized the importance of being able to compete with a full team at meets while continuing to build skills up and down the lineup of athletes.

LPA’s strength lies in its mindset. The Raiders bring a strong “drive to get better,” which could prove valuable as younger and less experienced players gain confidence throughout the season. While there are quite a few golfers on the roster that are new to the game, there are



The Raiders boys golf team members are, left to right, front row-Haven Howery, Kolton Boman, Manalo Regin, Tydan Eiter.; row two-Grant Francis, Collin Kastel, Gavin Erickson, Brock Anderson, Kyle Larson; third row-Bea Bjerke, Rylan Pederson, Michael Blahut, Macs Olson, Bennett Shehurman, Evan Wiedenmeyer; back row-Mack Voth, Troy Nerdahl, Grayden North, James Kastel, Ethan Wuollet and Austin Kelly.

some who should be able to compete with the ultimate goal of making it to the second day of the section tournament.

The early portion of the season has been slowed by weather, limiting outdoor practices but the Raiders are ready to hit the course as soon as it becomes available. The more exposure to real play, real lies, and real meet adjustments, the stronger the Raiders will be heading into prime competition time.

In conference play, Schultz points to Park Christian as the team to beat following its state tournament appearance last season.

Despite some inexperience, the Raiders are optimistic that continued development and leadership from their upperclassmen will help the team compete throughout the spring.



# LPA Golf Leans On Veteran Coaching And Youthful Leadership

By Kelsey Buchholz

The Lake Park Audubon girls golf team is quietly building a program built on knowledge, passion, and personal motivation. The Raider girls are in good hands let by veteran head coach Marge Beaudine who has over 20 years of coaching experience under her belt.

Coach Beaudine noted her excitement about the promise of a new season as LPA brings back a couple key pieces and supplemented the roster with some eager golfers, ready to build on their skills and knowledge of the game.

Coming back to LPA this season are juniors Audrey Ronning and Ashalynn Aakre and freshman Aurianna Kohler. The leadership and experience of competitive golf will go a long way in helping guide the novice golfers as they work to round out a full team at meets this season.

In addition to the veteran experience, the Raiders welcome senior Gracie Olson and a slew of sophomores: Harleigh Chapin, Isabella Donda, Alina Donda, Lilly Haugrud, Marie Vanderplaats, and Olivia Francis.

LPA has the numbers to make that full-team goal happen this year on hopefully the varsity through the junior high programs and that will also help in improving the team standings. Having a roster full of talented athletes who are eager to improve their game is a great starting point for the Raiders.

However, just the desire to do well and compete won’t be enough as the Raiders fill their spring meet



The Raiders girls golf team members are, left to right, front row-Olivia Francis, Maci Vanderplatts, Alina Danda, Audrey Ronning; back row-Bella Danda, Lilly Haugrud, Ashalynn Aakre, Harleigh Chapin and Adriana Kohler.

schedule with good teams who will make the LPA golfers play at their best.

Another challenge for the Raiders, and the other teams in the area, is the weather. Especially with recent snowfall over the Easter weekend, it continues to push back course openings and makes it difficult to maintain good greens and fairways.

Despite some struggles and difficulties in front of the Raiders, there is a lot of upside including veteran experience and youthful energy. “We have added and maintained some skilled players,” Coach Beaudine said. “I’m excited to see what the season brings for our team.”

LPA opens up their season at Park Christian, a top competitor this season, and then travels to Win-E-Mac and Fertile-Beltrami before going into the last week of April.

**ROSTER:**

Audrey Ronning	11
Ashalynn Aakre	11
Aurianna Kohler	9
Harleigh Chapin	10
Alina Donda	10
Isabella Donda	10
Lilly Haugrud	10
Marie Vanderplaats	10
Olivia Francis	10
Gracie Olson	10



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