

Hometown Sports

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B9

3 Blossoms qualify for state golf



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Blooming Prairie's three state qualifiers, from left to right, are: Maggie Bruns, Jessica Ressler and Halle Strunk.

BP girls team earns second place, boys finish in third at sections

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

The Blooming Prairie's girls and boys golf teams each finished in the top three at the section tournament on Tuesday, June 1, but it was the trio of Jessica

Ressler, Halle Strunk and Maggie Bruns that stole the show as they all advanced to the state tournament, which will be held at Pebble Creek Club in Becker on June 15 and 16.

Ressler, a senior, tied for medalist, or first

place, with Fillmore Central's Courtney Hershberger with a two-day score of 186.

Seniors Strunk and Bruns were also among the top 10 individual performers. Strunk earned fifth place with a score of 205 and Bruns, who was competing in varsity golf for the first time this season, shot a 217, which landed her in ninth place.

Seventh-grader Ella Farr rounded out Blooming Prairie's team score with a 247.

Collectively, the girls team finished with an overall score of 885 and comfortably achieved second place in the tournament.

Eighth-grader Caitlyn Stangl shot a 270 and seventh-grader Aubry Alwes, who was also competing for the varsity team for the first time this year, finished with a 276.

Meanwhile, the boys team finished in third

place, just one stroke behind the second-place Bethlehem Academy Cardinals and just three strokes behind the section winners, the Lanesboro Burros.

Coach Carl Peterson said the lead bounced back-and-forth between those three teams until the very last hole when the Burros edged the

Cardinals.

The Blossoms were able to keep up with the Burros and Cardinals because Blooming Prairie's top four golfers, whose scores are combined to form BP's team score, all finished in the top 15 individual golfers. Junior Colin Jordison was the top-performing Awe-

some Blossom with a score of 180, which landed him in eighth place. Junior Garret Farr was just two strokes behind with a 182, good for 11th place. Senior Kollyn Alwes shot a 183 and earned 13th place, while freshman Kaiden Alwes was just one stroke behind with a 184 and finished in 14th place.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Awesome Blossoms' girls golf team finished in second place at the section tournament on Tuesday, June 1. The team, which includes from left to right Ella Farr, Aubry Alwes, Maggie Bruns, Halle Strunk, Jessica Ressler and Caitlyn Stangl, posed with their runner-up plaque after the tournament concluded.

Panthers keep their Cinderella run alive

BY ALEX NUEHRING
SPORTS WRITER

Winning in post-season play is becoming contagious for the NRHEG baseball team.

The Panthers entered the section tournament as the No. 12 seed but have kept their season alive by beating No. 5 seed Minnesota Valley Lutheran, No. 8 seed Medford and most recently the No. 2 seed Blue Earth Area who they beat 5-2 on Saturday, June 5.

In the top of the fifth inning, the Panthers tied the game when Andrew Phillips hit an RBI triple.

The game was tied 2-2 in the top of the seventh inning but Ben Schoenrock brought in what ended up being the game-winning run with an RBI single.

Senior Kordell Schlaak was the winning pitcher. He struck out one, walked one and gave up just four hits and two runs over seven innings.

NRHEG's offense was led by George Roesler and Phillips who each tallied two hits.

In addition to collecting twice as many



STAFF PHOTO BY JOEY BUNTON

NRHEG freshman pitcher Daxter Lee throws home during the Panthers' 4-0 road win over Medford on Thursday, June 3.

hits as Blue Earth Area, the Panthers didn't commit any errors and stole seven bases. Clay Stenzel led NRHEG with two stolen bases.

The Panthers got to the quarterfinals of the elimination bracket by defeating Medford 4-0 on Thursday, June 3.

The key to NRHEG's win was the dominant pitching performance by Daxter Lee who struck out 13 Tigers and gave up just one hit and two walks in seven shut-out innings.

Thanks to Lee, the Panthers needed very little offense and they got enough in the first inning alone when Schlaak hit an RBI single to give NRHEG a 1-0 lead.

Overall, the Panthers accumulated eight hits. NRHEG's offense was led by Andrew Phillips and Schlaak who each recorded two hits.

Editor's note: The Panthers faced Sibley East on Monday, June 7, but given the Times' Monday deadline we don't yet know how NRHEG fared in that game.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOEY BUNTON

The Medford catcher gathers the ball after NRHEG's base runner slid across home plate and scored one of the four runs it scored in last Thursday's first round of the consolation bracket. The Panthers advanced to the consolation quarterfinals where they beat Blue Earth Area 5-2 and advanced to this Monday's consolation semifinal matchup against Sibley East.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOEY BUNTON

NRHEG's base runner dives back to first base as Medford's first baseman receives the pick-off attempt from his pitcher.