

Kenston Golfers Conclude Successful Seasons

By Dan Murray

Kenston standout sophomore Nicki Henry had an unwelcome case of déjà vu during this month's Division I district golf tournament held at The Legends course in Massillon.

For the second straight year, Henry missed out on a trip to the state tournament in Columbus by a single stroke. Her round of 87 was one shot out of the final qualifying spot as the Bombers had an uncharacteristic team score of 383 to place seventh in the strong 12-team field.

Teammates Cassie Johnson and Lauren O'Connor were the only other Kenston players to break 100 with rounds of 98. Eleni Seminore and Ali Read both shot scores of 100 on the tough Legends layout.

It was a disappointing finish to a strong season for the Bombers, who won their second straight Chagrin Valley Conference title and finished 12-0 in dual matches. Kenston captured the CVC Tournament at Punderson with an 11-shot victory over Hawken.

Henry led the winners with a round of 79 while O'Connor shot 95, Seminore posted a 96 and Johnson posted a round of 97.

The Bombers were second at the sectional tournament held in Cortland, shooting a team score of 353. Henry birdied the final hole to shoot 79 and take medalist honors while Johnson carded an 87, Seminore shot 93 and Read posted a 94.

"We had a good group of girls this season," said head coach Katie Macko. "They were all very dedicated. Nicki is only a sophomore but she stepped up as the team leader."

Henry also showed her class by raising money for breast cancer awareness. Taking a lead from LPGA pro Christie Kerr's Birdies For a Cure, she convinced parents Jack and Carol, grandparents Loren and Sue and sister Kelly to sponsor her this season. Henry finished with 37 birdies and two eagles and has already raised \$740.

The 5-2 Henry was one of the top players in Northeast Ohio this season. She set a new 18-hole school record during a tournament at Candywood earlier this season when she carded a round of 73, which included a sizzling 32 on the back nine.

The girls return their entire lineup next season when they make another run at a conference title and a shot at the state tournament.

Kenston's boys had to slog through a horrible weather day at their Division I district tournament held at Pine Hills earlier this month. The Bombers shot a team score of 335 to finish in the middle of a 20-team field.

"It was chaotic," said Bomber head coach Don Torma. "It was cold, rainy and windy and we played against some of the best teams in the state."

Like Henry, senior Zack Bates had a near miss at qualifying for state. The Bombers' top player shot a 79 to miss the cut for Columbus by just three shots. Bates had the team's top score this season with a 70 at Punderson during the Kenston Invitational.

"He was extremely disappointed," said Torma. "He and Alex (Lowman) carried the



Lady Bombers Golf Team is all smiles about a solid season. Pictured from left are: Cassie Johnson, Eleni Seminore, Lauren O'Connor, Nikki Henry, Jenn Althans and Ali Read

Lowman, another senior, shot 80 at Pine Hills while Eric Ford posted an 81 and Doug Revak added a 95.

Kenston was third of 19 teams at the sectional tournament held at Fowlers Mill as Bates shot a 74, Lowman 77, Ford 79 and Revak an 86. The team score of 316 placed the Bombers behind Mentor and Aurora.

At the CVC Tournament, Kenston was third with a score of 333. Bates and Lowman both shot rounds of 76 to lead the Bombers.

Bates hopes to continue his golfing career in college and has drawn interest from schools such as Dayton, Xavier and DePaul.