

THE LOCKER ROOM

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GIRLS GOLF ALL-STARS

Henry flourishes with one year to go

PAT GALBINCEA
Plain Dealer Reporter

GOLFER OF THE YEAR: Nicki Henry, Kenston

Being an outstanding youth golfer doesn't necessarily mean dominating the high school scene, as past standouts and Plain Dealer girls golfers of the year Hillary Wilson of Hudson and Christina Thomas of Rocky River learned.

They didn't prosper until their senior years. But 2009 Plain Dealer Girls Golfer of the Year Nicki Henry, a Kenston junior, forged a different path this fall with her medalist performance at a Division I district, making her All-Ohio performance at state almost anticlimactic.

Henry avoided having to wait until her senior year to earn All-Ohio honors by shooting a district-low 76 at the Legends of Massillon, then tying for 10th place at the rain-shortened state tournament on the Ohio State Gray Course with a 78.

"I know what Hillary and Christina went through, because my first two years at district I missed going to state by one stroke," Henry said. "I was more relieved at district this year than happy to be medalist because it's nerve-wracking trying to qualify for state. Playing at state was actually fun, even if the weather was bad.

"Those experiences as a freshman and sophomore pushed me to work harder. I practiced mainly on my short game and putting because that's where I believe you can cut off strokes the easiest."

Henry, who is involved in a fundraising program called Birdies Fore ALS — her grandmother, Carol Dovich, has Lou Gehrig's Disease — has played golf since age 5. She was taught the game by her father, Loren. Henry said she still has one area to master.

"I'm very accurate with my driver and pretty accurate with my irons, especially from 120 yards and in," Henry said. "But I still need to work on my longer irons and woods off the fairway — I'd say 3-wood through 7-iron — and that's what I'll be working on this winter."



JOSHUA GUNTER | THE PLAIN DEALER

Kenston's Nicki Henry earned All-Ohio honors after tying for 10th place at the rain-shortened Division I state golf tournament. She wants to work on her long irons over the winter to prepare for her senior season.

ALL-STAR TEAM

GOLFER OF THE YEAR

Nicki Henry

Kenston Junior



Notable: Finished tied for 10th in the state in Division I (78) on the Ohio State Gray Course,

and was the Legends of Massillon district medalist (76) and Tamer Win sectional medalist (79). Averaged 78.8 for 18 holes, 39.0 for nine.

OTHER ALL-STARS

Tasita Garcia

Cuyahoga Hts. Sophomore

Notable: Tied for seventh in the state in Division II (76-83), and was co-medalist at the Punderson sec



ence selection.

Keely Lavelle

Hathaway Brown Senior



and 81 at the Tam O'Shanter district. Low round of the season was a 75 at Sweetbriar Legacy in the Magnificat Invitational.

tional (74) and won the Tam O'Shanter district (76). First-team Chagrin Valley Confer-

Ariel McNair

Walsh Jesuit Senior



Notable: Averaged 39.7 for nine holes and 78.9 for 18 holes. Won four invitationals —

Massillon Jackson (76 at Legends of Massillon), Mentor (co-medalist with 77 at Fowler's Mill), Toledo St. Ursula (71 at Highland Meadows) and Canterbury (73), winning the latter two by three shots.

Nicole Trivisonno

NDCL Senior

Notable: Tied for 11th in the state in Division II (84-77) and was the leader of NDCL's state championship team. Co-medalist at the Mentor Invitational (77)



and medalist at Walsh Jesuit Invitational (77). Averaged 40.6 for nine holes, 82 for 18.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Dale Fisher

Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin



Notable: Guided the Lions to a 15-1 record in dual and tri-meets, and tournament titles at the Mentor and Walsh Jesuit. NDCL was second at the Division II Punderson sectional.

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