

GIRLS GOLF ALL-STARS

GOLFER OF THE YEAR: Jessica Porvasnik, Medina Highland



ALLISON CAREY | THE PLAIN DEALER

Jessica Porvasnik of Medina Highland won eight tournaments, including the Division I sectional and district, and she was the state runner-up.

# Practicing in her basement helps Highland sophomore rise to top

TIM ROGERS  
Plain Dealer Reporter

Hinckley's Jessica Porvasnik finished second by one stroke in a golf tournament held at Duke University over Thanksgiving weekend.

She lost to Christina Ocampo, from Delray Beach, Fla. Afterward, the Floridian told Porvasnik she could not believe she was from Ohio.

"How do you practice this time of the year?" the girl wanted to know.

So it goes when you are an elite junior golfer from Ohio, and make no question, Porvasnik is an elite junior golfer. The sophomore at Medina Highland had the best season of any player in the area by far in 2010 and has been chosen as The Plain Dealer's Girls Golfer of the Year.

"I hit balls [into a net] and practice putting in my basement," said Porvasnik, in response to the question. "And I go to the Golf Improvement Center."

Frequently, indoor golf is about as good as it gets.

How good was Porvasnik during the season? Consider:

- Her greens-in-regulation figure was 77.5 percent.
- She hit the fairway with nearly 62 percent of her drives.
- She averaged 33 putts per round.
- She won eight tournaments, including the Division I sectional and district, and she was the state tournament runner-up with rounds of par-70 and 77 on the Gray Course at Ohio State.
- Her scoring average was 73.5 for 18 holes and 36.4 for nine.

Porvasnik, who helped Highland to a fourth-place finish, said she was satisfied with the way her season went but felt it could have been better. The Hornets will not have to make many lineup changes, as they lose just one senior.

"We all felt we could have done better," she said. "We're all going to work hard this off-season."

Even if it will be indoors.

To reach this Plain Dealer reporter: trogers@plaind.com, 216-999-5169

## ALL-STAR TEAM GOLFER OF THE YEAR

Jessica Porvasnik  
Medina Highland Sophomore

**College:** Undecided.  
**Notable:** Without question, she was the best player in the area from start to season's end. Her runner-up finish in the Division I state tournament was the best by an area player and her score of 70-77—147 made her the only sophomore in the field of 72 to finish in the top 15. She was the medalist in eight of 11 events, including the sectional and district tournaments. She hit 77.5 percent of greens in regulation and averaged 73.5 in 18-hole events.

## OTHER ALL-STARS

Brynn FitzGerald  
Orange Junior



**College:** Undecided.  
**Notable:** Posted her second top-10 finish in the past three years in the Division II state tournament when she shot rounds of

73-79—152 at the Ohio State Gray Course to finish tied for third. Posted the second-lowest score by an area player in either division. Medalist in 12 of her 13 dual matches and at the Padua, Mentor, Walsh Jesuit invitationals, and the Punderson sectional with even-par 72.

Natalie Goodson  
Hudson Senior



**College:** Kent State.  
**Notable:** Her eighth-place finish in the Division I state tournament (76-78 — 154) capped a terrific senior season and sparkling four-year career. Was the player of the year in the Northeast Ohio Conference for the second year in a row and a three-time state qualifier. Posted the lowest score in the 11-year history of the Ashland Invitational at Brookside with a 1-under 70 and also shot a 1 under to win the sectional at Gleneagles.

Nicki Henry  
Kenston Senior



**College:** Eastern Kentucky.  
**Notable:** The only repeater on this team, and she leaves Kenston as the best player in school history. She shot 75-78—153 to finish third in the Division I state tournament — her second top-10 finish — and earn All-Ohio honors for the second year in a row. Won the Chagrin Valley Conference tournament and was medalist in the sectional tournament at Tamer Win Golf Course with a score of 75. Owns every school record, including low rounds of 36 for nine holes and 67 for 18.

Ashley Yarbrough  
Hathaway Brown Sophomore



**College:** Undecided.  
**Notable:** She was the Blazers' number one player all season and played that role to perfection in the Division II state tournament

where she posted the team's best rounds and led it to an astonishing 23-stroke victory. She was eighth overall with scores of 77-78 on the Gray Course. She averaged 82.4 strokes during the season and was fourth in the sectional.

## COACH OF THE YEAR

Paul Barlow  
Hathaway Brown



**Notable:** Recently completed his 11th season as coach and his team got better as the season wore on. It won the Northeast Ohio Independent School Girls Golf League title for the first time and was second in the Division II district tournament before steamrolling the field in the state tournament, tying the record for the lowest team score of 658 and winning by 23 shots. It was Barlow's second state title in eight months as he also coached the school to the state basketball championship.

— Tim Rogers

## About fall All-Stars

The 2010 fall All-Stars were chosen by The Plain Dealer's high school sports staff. Selections were based on many factors, including reporters' first-hand knowledge and observations made while covering matches, statistics,

input from area coaches and characteristics such as sportsmanship and leadership. Consideration was given to athletes who were overwhelmingly among the best but were unable to play the entire season because of injury. However,

the athlete must have performed at the highest level for a substantial portion of the season. In individual sports, the biggest factor was performance in state tournaments. In golf, the scores and finishes were considered.