

Chalk it up to experience

Written by Deb Egenberger

Wednesday, 02 June 2010 20:50 - Last Updated Wednesday, 02 June 2010 20:53



VanAcker shoots 187 at two-day state meet.

KEARNEY—The first state meet experience for Swede golfer Jeramie VanAcker didn't turn out exactly as he'd hoped.

Ideal weather conditions for the two-day Class B meet at Meadowlark Hills Golf Course at Kearney on May 25 and 26 didn't mean ideal scores for the Gothenburg sophomore.

VanAcker started well on the front nine the first day carding a 42.

Then he ran into serious problems on holes 12 and 18, coach Jim Henke said.

"They are very similar holes and require a precise tee shot," Henke said. "Jeramie missed the fairway on both and ended up in the woods which required penalty strokes to get back on the right track."

VanAcker shot a 48 on the back nine for a first-day total of 90.

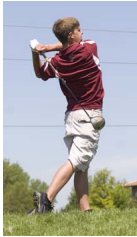
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Starting on the back nine the second day, VanAcker was able to conquer the two holes that previously gave him trouble for a nine-hole score of 43.

Then it was Meadowlark's front nine that gave him fits with chipping and putting problems.



"That's very uncharacteristic for Jeramie," Henke said.

Hole 6 proved to be VanAcker's real nemesis for day two as out-of-bounds penalty strokes added to his previous troubles.

His score ballooned to 54 for a second-day total of 97 and overall score of 187.

"Jeramie was really upset and embarrassed but I tried to convince him to take pride in the fact that he made it to state because of an outstanding effort at district," Henke said.

With four golfers in the top 15, Scottsbluff easily took the Class B state team title with a two-day total of 593. Omaha Skutt Catholic came in second at 632.

Andrew Holloway, a freshman from Scottsbluff, was the individual champion with a two-day score of 140. Caleb Harms of Beatrice finished second shooting 145.

"Jeramie definitely has the right mind set," Henke said. "He works so hard at trying to improve and has already shown a willingness to practice his short game, which most guys his age do not do. I am confident he will return to the state meet in the future."

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While VanAcker may not think much of his state performance, Henke said the experience gained in terms of what it took to get there, the atmosphere and competitive spirit will serve him well.

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