

Golfers headed to state

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Swedes third in C-4 district

It's been five years and thousands of swings since the last time Swede golfers qualified for the state meet as a team.

That was 2007 and this is 2012 and a whole new group of girls will make the trip to Columbus on Monday for the state championships after the Gothenburg team shot 419 to finish third in the C-4 district meet at Wild Horse Golf Club and earn the berth.

"Words cannot describe how proud I am of these girls," said Gothenburg coach Tara Foster. "We've all had the same goal of making it to state since the first day of practice and we've worked so hard to earn this opportunity."

Conditions weren't ideal for golf Monday morning as blustery winds up to 25 mph affected shots.

But Foster said the girls never lost their composure, continuing to be optimistic even when the conditions weren't ideal.

Two Swedes finished in the top 10 and would have qualified for state as individuals had the team not made it.

Mallory McCoy, a junior, shot 51 on the front nine and came back three strokes better for 48 on the back to finish with 99 tied with three other golfers for sixth place.

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Sophomore McKinley Harm carded 50 on the front and 51 on the back for an 18-hole score of 101, good enough to tie for ninth place.

“McKinley and Mallory both played very solid golf,” Foster said.

Minden took the team title with 403 and the second- and third-place individuals in Allison Geist and Paige Kristensen.

Valentine was the team runner-up carding 406. Badger Michelle Renning captured the individual championship with a score of 91. Teammate Shawna Wheeler tied for fourth at 98.

Foster is excited to be taking her first golf team to the state meet.

“This year was all about team effort and pushing each other to play to her full potential,” Foster said. “All of the girls exceeded my expectations and contributed to the team in their own way.”

The state meet begins at Quail Run Golf Course in Columbus with tee times starting at 9:30 a.m.

The two-day state meet continues on Tuesday.