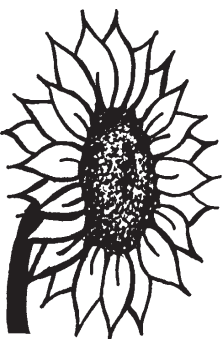


The Saint Francis Herald

At the Game



COACH GEORGE BANISTER gives Cade Bracelin, Lauren Bandel and Nikki Easter some pointers before the golfers prepare for the putting contest. Herald staff photos by Betty Jean Winston



Darcy Vernon

Riverside golfers win Regional championships

By Betty Jean Winston
bettyw@nwkansas.com

The junior golf season ended Friday morning, July 27, at Riverside.

Several of the youth who had participated in the program this year, gathered on Friday for a putting contest and a lunch of pizza. Lauren Bandel was the winner of the girls division in the putting competition while Cade Bracelin won the boys division.

The Riverside junior golfers attended various league tournaments this season with two of them, Kyla Bandel and Darcy Vernon, qualifying for Regionals.

At the Regional contest, held July 23, at Phillipsburg, both Kyla (8/9 girls) and Darcy (12/13 girls) won championships in their age division.

Darcy, who is from Wray, but a member of Riverside, won her Regional championship with a score of 47. She has played in several tournament the last four years in Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas but this was her first Regional championship.

She has enjoyed golf since she was a small child, she said.

This was not Kyla's first time attending Kansas Regionals as she earned a third place last year in the same age division. She has been golfing for four years and even placed in junior golf tournaments two years ago but did not attend Regional that year because of an age requirement.

She really likes golf and going to junior golf tournaments, she said.

"Kyla had 12 strokes on the second hole and came back in the next seven holes to win," Coach George Banister said. "I was so proud of the fact she didn't give up."

Coach Banister feels that golf is a sport which a number of kids can and do enjoy.

Many colleges have golf teams and Riverside youth can apply for golf scholarships at the time they head for college. The desire to play and hours of practice are important, he said.



Kyla Bandel

Chase Co. Fair
6x4