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Congratulations Cowgirl golfer Jessica Osborn for making it to state!



The Goodland Ambassadors showed up to send Jessica Osborn off to the state golf competition in Pittsburg Oct. 6: (from left) Dale Schields, Kim Schields, Kathy Melia, Debbie Martin, Ben Williams and Osborn, with Devinee Borgmann, Janice Phipps, Carol Tupper, Dale Stephens and David Branda.
Photo by Cami Rodgers/The Goodland Daily News

Cowgirl places 25th at state tourney

Coach says team did great for the girls' first year

By Dana Sulsberger
The Goodland Daily News

It was the first year for the Goodland High girls golf team this year, and all the girls did remarkably well, with one golfer making the long trip to Pittsburg for the state tournament this month.

Cowgirl Jessica Osborn, daughter of Chuck and Beth Osborn, placed 25th out of 86 participants in 22 flights at the state competition Oct. 10 after the match was delayed several days by the rain.

"We were all just a little stiff in the morning," said Osborn, explaining they hadn't gotten to practice much because of the bad weather.

Osborn, a 14-year-old freshman, said her experience at state was a good one.

She said she joined the golf team because she had been golfing on her own since she was 6.

"I think Jessica was disappointed that she didn't do better," said Coach Ben Williams, "but I think she did great, especially as a freshman."

Williams said most of the girls Osborn was competing with were juniors and seniors, and he thought Osborn should be thrilled just to have the experience.

"I told the girls when they first came out that if they didn't want to have fun, then they should just go back to school," said Williams.



A tournament shouldn't be life or death, he said. It should be fun.
"She did a wonderful job," he said, "and I am thrilled to death with how she did."
Osborn did better than any freshman he

has seen, Williams said. She only missed a medal at state by a few positions. Playing against some of the toughest golfers in the state, she got higher scores than about half of them.

Osborn shot a 51 in her first round and a 52 in her second.

Osborn qualified for state when she got a score of 93, placing fifth, in the regional tournament in WaKeeney. She took medals at several other tournaments, said the coach.

"A lot of seniors didn't even get in the top 50," he said, "and she got 25th place."

He said all of the girls' scores were probably higher at state because the course was a swamp after the rain, but everyone dealt with it really well.

"Jessica did an unbelievable job," he said.

Goodland High School officials had talked about the possibility of a girls golf team for several years, Williams said.

The coach said he worried when practice first started because a lot of the girls hadn't even swung a golf club before, but after the first match, he said you could have knocked him over with a feather the girls did so well.

Williams said he hopes the school will continue the golf program next year, especially after seeing how well the girls did this season.

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