## Another state title for Ilwaco boys golf

The Daily Astorian

SPOKANE, Wash. — The Ilwaco boys golf program is back on top of the world ... or at least the Washington 1B/2B part of it.

Three years after their last state title, the Fishermen are state champions again, following their final round victory Wednesday at MeadowWood Golf Course in Spokane, Wash.

Led by an eighth-grader, Ilwaco finished with 29.5 team points, ahead of Pomeroy (28.0) and DeSales (27.0). Colfax, Tonasket and Crosspoint were the only other scoring teams.

Ilwaco's Blake Kukula finished second overall on the leaderboard, as the eighth-grader had a final round 78 Wednesday. Coupled with his first round 73 Tuesday, Kukula finished with a 151, four strokes behind medalist Palmer Guhlke of Davenport.

Ilwaco's only other golfer in the field was Zac Tapio, who tied for 15th with an 85-85—170. Ethan Bannister did not make the final cut after Tuesday's round.

It's the first state title for the Fishermen under head coach Dave Hansen.

Previously, Ilwaco won team championships under Dan Whealdon at the 1A level in 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013.

In the 2B/1B girls tournament, also at Meadowwood, Ilwaco's Aslyn Fisher tied for ninth overall with a 94-91—185.

Kaysa Panke of Davenport was medalist with a 156, while Northwest Christian-Colbert was the team champion.



Photos by Damian Mulinix/For EO Media Group

## The Ilwaco High boys golf team celebrated their sixth state title in nine years Wednesday at the MeadowWoods Golf Course in Spokane.

## **AREA BOYS GOLF STATE** CHAMPIONS, **SINCE 2008**

2008 Ilwaco Boys 1A 2010 Ilwaco Boys 1A 2011 Ilwaco Boys 1A 2012 Ilwaco Boys 1A 2013 Ilwaco Boys 1A 2014 Seaside Boys 4A 2015 Seaside Boys 4A 2016 Ilwaco Boys 2B

RIGHT ABOVE: Zac Tapio makes a chip onto the cottonwood debris covered 13th hole green Wednesday at the state championship meet. RIGHT: Blake Kukula makes a save shot near the out of bounds area on the 16th hole Wednesday at the state meet.







Blake Kukula shoots out of a bunker on the 15th hole Wednesday at the state championship meet in Spokane.



Blake Kukula reacts after narrowly missing a putt on the 16th hole Wednesday.

**TODAY** Baseball - Class 4A Quarterfinal: Astoria at Cottage Grove, 4 p.m.; Class 2A Quarterfinal: North Douglas at Knappa, 4:30 p.m.







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