

Cottage Grove Girls Golf



Melissa Johnson sends in a putt.

Team Rundown:

It wasn't the ideal start to the season.

While teams all across the area dealt in their own way with the snow, it impacted the golf team particularly hard. For four of the team's six golfers, it is their first time playing the sport and with the snow shutting down area courses, it meant the newcomers had one day at a driving range, one day at Middlefield Golf Club and then it was time for their first tournament.

"First time four of them had ever been on a golf course," said second year head coach Jennifer Husk. "It was freezing, it was rainy, it was cold. They didn't complain once. They're an awesome bunch, I really enjoyed that. And they had fun, they liked it. I enjoyed seeing them out there

enjoying that. If they can handle that, they can handle anything."

While last year's team finished with just one golfer on the team, the six girls out this year is a warm welcome for Husk. Returning from last season is junior Melissa Johnson while the other familiar face is senior McKenzie Herzog who is back after taking off her junior year to focus on AP classes. For the rest of the new golfers, Husk is working to get them up to par.

"The first goal is every time you take a swing, you're hitting a golf ball and you're not missing it. And you feel confident that every time you step over it, you can hit it and you know what to do," said Husk. "Just so they get familiar with the game and they love it."



McKenzie Herzog watches her ball roll onto the green.

Chatting with the Cottage Grove Team:

Why did you decided to come out for golf this season?

Bethany Struthers: My family has always really liked golf. We haven't really came out to the golf course and watched it but we always like watching golf movies and we really enjoy watching it. And so me and (my sister) Moira decided we would play it this year.

How is it being back on the course now with a team?

Melissa Johnson: It feels great. It's so much fun, especially with the right coach, it makes it enjoyable. And the right people on the team. And with a good attitude you can have anything happen.

What are you looking to improve in your second year of high school golf?

MJ: I definitely want to get better at my driver. Even though I'm good

at it, I want to get perfection at it. Everything else, I just want to be better.

So you're back after a year away.

McKenzie Herzog: I took a year off last year to do AP classes because I had a big work load. Just come out and do it again because I took off all that work load. Last year I put it down, I was getting frustrated. I was like I'm done. This year I've got to have fun and just get out here and do it. I missed it.

How is it being back?

A little bit easier and it is great with coach who is so much fun to work with. So I've gotten so much better.

What are you trying to accomplish this year?

Try to do the best I can. Just go out there, hit the ball. See where it goes.

Play with class
Win with class
Lose with class

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Youth, community, conservation
 & safety it's what we do!

Dr. Brent Bitner

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