On the Links with Clarksburg High School

By Jeff Stuart

The Clarksburg Golf team finished with eleven wins and seven losses. “We had twelve kids try out,” said Head Coach Thomas Laddbush. “I picked eight boys and one girl based on a three-day tournament. The girl, Lauren Miller, is a beginner.” The golf team is allowed one or two practice times a week by MCPS, and the team tries to arrange its own practice on a range or a golf course, then there is one match a week. “We try to practice five times a week, Monday thru Friday. We can't go on Saturdays because the courses are too busy,” added Laddbush. Meets are arranged between four teams, each playing with their top six golfers. “If you beat all three teams you get three points…and [you] count your first five scores in nine-hole matches.”

The remarkably-consistent Conner Miller, a junior, was the number-one player for CHS. “He averaged, like, forty-one for all the matches, right on the money. Conner shot an 82 at the MCPS District Tournament on October 4 at Poolesville,” said Laddbush. With a team made up of mostly juniors and seniors, there are two seniors in the starting lineup, Alex Hall and Chris Viqueira. “We didn't have any superstars, but we had three really good players. (Conner Miller, Alex Hall, and junior Stefan Wroblewski). Conner and Alex qualified for the Montgomery County Invitational.” The other regular players are juniors Alex Belman and Mike Opiekun. The team was undefeated last year allowing them to move up to the middle division. This year, the Coyotes finished in third place this year and will remain in the middle division.”
Alex Belman figured prominently in the September 28 contest at Worthington Manor. “It came down to the last match,” said the coach. He shot a 49. “Alex didn't even know the he needed to make a couple of good shots for us to beat Sherwood—but he did. That was our best day and it cost me a lunch. I had to buy them all pizza and coke.” CHS won all three matches, shooting 223. Mac Raum and Uda Virk round out the team.