

Experienced Section 9 golfers set for states

By Sal Interdonato
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Section 9 is sending an experienced boys team to the state golf championships this weekend at Cornell University in Ithaca.

Seven of the section's nine golfers have combined for 15 state-tourney appearances. Cornwall senior Ryan Rodriguez will tee off for the fifth time. Eldred senior David Powers plays in his fourth and final tournament.

Kingston sophomore Scott Kleeschulte and Newburgh Free Academy eighth-grader Zain Jafar are the only section golfers making their first state trip. Jafar, who tied for 10th in the section, replaced Valley Central junior Josh Kienz. In a show of sportsmanship, Kienz disqualified himself from the state tournament after bringing to the attention of section officials that he had signed a scorecard with an incorrect score for one of his holes.

The state tournament begins on Sunday morning and finishes with 18 holes Monday. Section 9 last placed a golfer in the top 10 in 2012 when Rondout Valley's Ben DeForest took second.

The girls state golf tournament is in Farmingdale, Long Island, Saturday and Sunday at Bethpage State Park's Yellow Course. Section 9 champion Amber Pennington, a Rondout Valley eighth-grader, makes her second straight state trip. The tournament will consist of 18 holes each day.

Section 9's boys state golf team

Ryan Rodriguez, Cornwall senior: First Section 9 golfer since Rondout Valley's Chris DeForest (2003-07) to play in five state tournaments.

David Powers, Eldred senior: Four-time state qualifier's best finish was tied for 21st last year.

Jake Hommel, Kingston sophomore: Two-time Orange County County Interscholastic Athletic



Eldred senior David Powers will play in his fourth and final state golf tournament on Sunday and Monday, trying to become Section 9's first top-10 finisher since 2012. WILLIAM MONTGOMERY/TIMES HERALD-RECORD

Association champion is capable of improving on tie for 48th last year.

Zain Jafar, Newburgh Free Academy eighth-grader: First alternate is Newburgh Free Academy's first state qualifier since Pat Mainey in 1998.

Scott Kleeschulte, Kingston sophomore: Lefty playing in his first state tournament. Older brother Doug played in four state tournaments (2005-08)

Justin Lane, Onteora junior: Three-time state qualifier tied for 21st as a freshman.

Stanley Garrant, Spackenkill senior: Garrant plays in his third state tournament in the last four years.

Jeff Peters, Roosevelt junior: Section 9 champion makes second straight state trip, tied for 36th last year.

Erik Stauderman, Spackenkill sophomore: Third straight state trip for Stauderman, who tied for 24th last year.

Section 9 state girls golf team Amber Pennington, Rondout Valley eighth-grader: Pennington's game has improved since she placed 58th in the state in 2015.

Pasqualina Tartaglione, Pine Bush sophomore: Tartaglione seeks her second straight top-20 state finish. She tied for 19th last year.

Katie Biagi, Goshen senior: Biagi is making her first state trip after placing third in the section.

Jessica Rallo, Monroe-Woodbury senior: One of section's most improved golfers, Rallo took fourth in the section to earn her first state trip.

Kristin Scali, James I. O'Neill junior: Scali tied for 35th in the state as a sophomore.

Kelly Leach, Monroe-Woodbury senior: Leach is playing in her first state tournament following a sixth-place finish in the section.

Alex Cymbal, New Paltz freshman: Cymbal, making her first state trip, placed seventh in section.

Olivia Klugman, Goshen freshman: Klugman, a first-time state qualifier, was eighth in the section.

Gabbie Budd, Ellenville senior: Budd improved on her section score by 23 strokes to earn first state trip.

—sinterdonato@th-record.com
Twitter: @salinterdonato

Deposit ends Eldred's season at quarterfinals

Freshman pitcher Makenzie Stiles held Eldred to three hits and struck out nine to lead Deposit to an 8-0 win in the quarterfinals of the Class D state softball tournament on Friday at Union-Endicott High School near Binghamton.

Sheila Burns, Breezy Terry and Katie D'Angelo had one hit apiece for Eldred (15-5).

Junior pitcher Jordan Lepes struck out six.

"She did phenomenal," Eldred coach Ryan Jasper said of Lepes. "We just didn't back her up well."

Eldred twice put runners on the corners with one out, but baserunning mistakes led to double plays that killed the potential

Yellow Jackets' rallies.

Section 4's Deposit (20-1), the defending state Class D champion, advances to a semifinal against Heuvelton (20-0) of Section 10 (Potsdam area) on June 11 in Moreau, near Glens Falls.

Eldred has won back-to-back Section 9 Class D titles and lost to Deposit in last season's state quarterfinals, 14-3. Deposit, with just one senior and one junior, figures to be a state-title contender for years to come.

"We've played enough of these games by now to know that we want to win," said Jasper. "They're a really young team. The scary part is, if we win Section 9 again, we'll be playing them forever."

CLASSIC RUN HEALTHCARE CLASSIC 10K



GATEHOUSE MEDIA

The Crystal Run Healthcare Classic 10K and Rowley 5K Race & Walk take up a lot of space along Middletown streets.

As such, folks are often forced to adjust their travel plans. Above

is a map outlining the respective courses. Roads will be closed along the 10K route from 7 a.m.-9:30 a.m., and along the 5K route from 7 a.m.-10 a.m.