RACHEL CROSSNOE BECOMES FIRST LADY CAV TO QUALIFY FOR STATE GOLF TOURNAMENT



Above: Rachel will play at Sevierville Golf Club next Monday and Tuesday in the TSSAA State Tournament. (Photo by Ron Barry)

During her freshman year at Crockett County High School, Rachel Crossnoe was given an assignment to write a list of the goals she hoped to accomplish by the time she graduated.

Since then, the energetic senior has been a four-year cheer team member; a leader of the yearbook staff; a Beta Club member; class secretary; Student Council member; and an active participant in FFA, Students for Christ, and HOSA. How she finds the time to pull all of that together constantly amazes those who regularly witness it.

Rachel says she completed the assignment referenced above but "I forgot about it and the goals soon after" until "it resurfaced in my mind this past week."
Why did it hit her again all of a sudden?
"One of the goals I wrote down was to try to go to State (as a golfer) at least one year," she says. Rachel had just advanced from the District Tournament to the Region Tournament, to be held Monday in Memphis. It would be her final opportunity to make it, since she was now a senior. Oh, and there's one other thing: no Lady Cavalier golfer has ever made it to the TSSAA State Tournament.

"I think this helped me realize how much I wanted it and how important it was to me," she says.

Well – as busy as Rachel's schedule is, she'll now have to pause for a trek over to Sevierville next week, after shooting an 83 Monday in the Region Tournament at The Links at Pine Hill in Memphis, good enough for a fifth-place individual finish and a berth in the TSSAA field. Only the three girls from Region champion South Gibson County – medalist Marleigh Chicantek (70), Sophie Ingle (75), and Anna Claire Hardin (79) – and Madison Academic's Nora Manley (81) carded rounds with lower scores than Rachel.

Making the experience even more memorable was the fact that Crockett's full team was in the Region event for the first time, and posted the school's best-ever finish as a squad by capturing third behind SGC (145) and Madison (171). The Lady Cavs' score was 179, with Emmalynn Medlin – who just started playing golf this summer – breaking the 100 mark for the first time over 18 holes, carding a 96. While only the top two teams advance to the State (along with the next two individuals not on an advancing team), Crockett's girls defeated all three schools from the Memphis district in this tournament. Alyssa Stricklin was the third member of Crockett's squad.

On the boys side of the event, Dyer County captured the team championship as medalist Jarrett Harrison fired a 68 to top the field. The Choctaws shot 286 as a squad, and edged Madison by two strokes (303 to 305) to gain the other State berth. All of the players advancing to the State are from Crockett's district.

Coach Pate Randall was delighted that Rachel advanced to the State and that Assistant Coach Candy Stallings had the Lady Cavs well-prepared for Monday's round.

"I'm thankful that Candy could take the girls down there (to Memphis) yesterday and play a practice round with them, take them to dinner last night, and be there for them today," he said. "As for Rachel, my experience being her coach is nothing but joyful. She's a very sweet girl who is smart and talented. Her athleticism is impressive. She flips around like a gymnast for the cheer squad and then has good hands to play golf at a high level compared to her peers. You do not see many multi-sport athletes make it to State (in golf). All of her other competitors play golf only. They don't cheer, run the yearbook club, and whatever other organizations she is doing. Jokingly, golf is probably the sport she spends the least the least amount of time practicing."

Stallings is thankful for her opportunity to work with the Lady Cavalier team, especially after watching Rachel battle past a couple of obstacles Monday to gain her State berth.
"Rachel's round today is a perfect reminder that golf is as much about the mental game as it is the physical one," she said. "She struggled through a couple of holes today, but instead of letting those holes define her round, she dug deep, stayed focused, and fought her way back. That resilience is what earned her a spot at State.

"More importantly, this fall has been about more than scores. I have had the opportunity to spend time with an amazing group of girls. I'm incredibly proud of the way they handled adversity, finished strong, and never gave up. Rachel, Alyssa, and Emmalynn have all grown this season and that's what this sport is all about."
Rachel says having her teammates there Monday was special.

"This was by far my favorite regional tournament," she says. "It was so fun to have a team to go with. It feels weird not having anyone else from Crockett going next week, but I am so thankful for this opportunity the Lord has provided."

Rachel had to lean in on her faith a bit during play, especially after taking an 8 on the 12th hole – which, ironically, also took its toll somewhat on Manley (a 7) as well. "The holes I did badly on today were the same ones as the practice round, so I honestly just had to laugh about it," she says. "I was constantly telling myself that it was okay and to be confident in my line. After a really bad hole I would tell myself it's a new hole and I knew I was in control of it.

"I also had a really fun and supportive playing group. I have played with most of them since elementary school. They helped to keep the humor going and the good vibes. The weather was also perfect and we kept a fast pace, so we weren't nearly as tired as normal. A big part of it was if I had a shot I wasn't confident in, I would ask the Lord for help and thank Him whenever I had a bad shot turn out good."

Planning to go into some type of medical field after graduation, Rachel says she is either going to play golf at Dyersburg State or attend Jackson State.

But for now – if she can cram it into her schedule – she'll be playing golf at Sevierville Golf Club next Monday and Tuesday in the TSSAA State Tournament, making Crockett County history.

Region Tournament in Memphis
Girls Team Scores (top 2 advance to State): (1) South Gibson County 145; (2) Madison Academic 171; (3) Crockett County 179; (4) Crosstown 203; (5) Lakeland Prep 207; (6) Middle College 235.
Girls Top 15 Individuals (those with an asterisk advance to State): (1) Marleigh Chicantek*, SGC 70; (2) Sophie Ingle*, SGC 75; (3) Anna Claire Hardin*, SGC 79; (4) Nora Manley*, Madison 81; (5) Rachel Crossnoe*, Crockett 83; (6) Taylor Burks*, Ripley 89; (T-7) Miles Pinson*, Madison and Stella Madden, Dyersburg 90; (T-9) Halle Flagg and Molly Roberts, Dyer County 94; (11) Cally Cook, Dyersburg 95; (12) Emmalynn Medlin, Crockett 96; (13) Abigail Detrie, Crosstown 98; (14) M Perkins, Lakeland Prep 102; (T-15) Quia Bateman, Crosstown and M Mowry, Lakeland Prep 105.
Boys Team Scores (top 2 advance to State): (1) Dyer County 286; (2) Dyersburg 303; (3) Madison Academic 305;
(4-6) Memphis-area teams.
Boys Top 15 Individuals (those with an asterisk advance to State): (1) Jarrett Harrison*, Dyer Co 68; (2) Jacob Ragan*, Madison 69; (3) John David Morris*, Dyersburg 70; (4) Colin Pack*, Gibson Co 71; (5) Miller Williams*, Dyer Co 72; (T-6) Beau Thurman* and Jamison Rhodes*, Dyer Co, and Ryan Wesson*, Dyersburg 73: (9) Will Hendren, SGC 74; (10) Jayce Ellerbrook*, Dyersburg 75; (11) Gage Dillon, Madison 76; (12) John Sage, Covington 77; (13) Wyatt Guthrey, Jackson South Side 78; (14) Brock Browning, Madison 79; (15) Trey Perkins, Madison 81.



Above: Rachel Crossnoe placed fifth in the Region Tournament to become the first Lady Cavalier golfer to earn a TSSAA State Tournament berth. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Splitting fall sports time with golf, Rachel is one of Crockett's football cheerleaders as well. (Photo by Ron Barry)

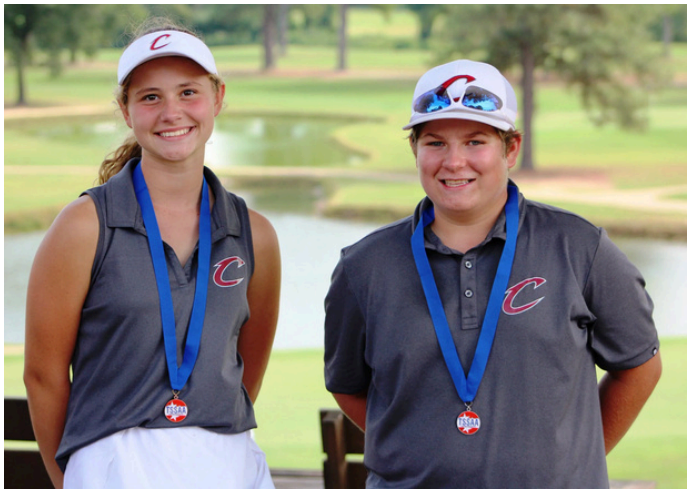




Above: During basketball season, you may see Rachel and bestie Sarah Breland taking pictures for the yearbook. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Rachel has been a key contributor to the success of Crockett's competition cheer squad as well. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Rachel Crossnoe won a district tournament medal, along with Cav team member Jack Shaver, back when she was still just a sophomore. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Emmalynn Medlin posted her top 18-hole score ever -- a 96 -- to help Crockett's team finish a school-record best third place in the Regional. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Marleigh Chicantek of South Gibson County was the Region Tournament champion with a round of 70. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Jarrett Harrison of Dyer County took the boys' individual title with a 68 and led the Choctaws to the team championship as well. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: But Monday -- for Crockett County golf fans -- belonged to Rachel Crossnoe, making history by gaining a State Tournament berth. (Photo by Ron Barry)





below: Only two sports were available to individuals not on advancing teams -- and Rachel snared the first one, six strokes better than the second qualifier. (Photo by Ron Barry)

