

# ranklin Golf Club News

## *Fall 2020*

### **Happy Thanksgiving to Everyone!**

I know that I speak for Crystal Morse, my co-head coach, in saying that we are very thankful for the opportunity to coach and teach boys and girls in the Franklin community. This year has not come without unforeseen challenges due to COVID-19, but the interaction we have been able to have with our players whether current or future has been an important step in laying the foundation for the success of Franklin Golf.

We feel bad that our middle school and high school boys' teams did not have a season. This was a major setback in developing the culture we need in order to succeed. As coaches we developed the concept of the Franklin Golf Club and provided our kids opportunities twice a week to play and practice together last spring. We developed the May Junior Series at The Legends. Much of this was done to give our boys something. It wasn't a true season, but it was an opportunity. Our boys had one playing opportunity in the IHSGCA Team Regional at The Legends. Our kids played respectable, but did not advance to the state championship.

As coaches, we could not be happier with the effort and commitment we have seen from the girls in our program. It started last spring with consistent participation in the Franklin Golf Club opportunities as well as the May Junior Series. We had nine girls that were truly invested in becoming better players and it was evident with the high school season when our team finished with a 111-32 record (.776) and state ranking of 9<sup>th</sup> in the IHSGCA poll. The FCHS girls won the Mid-State Conference, Franklin Invite and finished as Regional Finalists. The 2020 girls' team finished with the second best scoring average (163.5) in the history of the Franklin girls program.

Ellie Beavins and Liv Parramore were Co-MVP's. Ava Ray was Most Improved Player. Beavins won three times including the Franklin Invite, Mid-State and IHSA Sectional. Ellie finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Regional and 35<sup>th</sup> in IHSA State Finals. Parramore had runner-up finishes in the Franklin Invite, County and Mid-State and carded the low average on the team. Ray finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Mid-State, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the IHSA Sectional, 3<sup>rd</sup> in the IHSA Regional and led all Johnson County

players with a 32<sup>nd</sup> place finish at the IHSAA State Finals. All three girls were named All-County and All-Mid-State. Beavins was named County Player of the Year by *The Daily Journal* and received the Mitchel J. Winger Courage Award from the IHSGCA.



Kara Heuchan and Kalyn Dickey were named Rookies of the Year as they participated and contributed in most of our tournaments. That being said, we saw constant improvement from many other players on our roster including Morgan Sandrock, Maria Williams, Addison Livorno and Rylie Wilkison. These six players will join Ava Ray next year to form our nucleus

## Middle School Girls Achieve Excellence

The Franklin Middle School girls' team won the Mid-State Conference and the Johnson County Girls Championship. The team was coached by Dan Gibson and Assistant, John Maryan. Three girls earned both All-Conference and All-County honors. They were Lexi Ray, Reese Phillips and Addie Bright. Ray and Bright are 7<sup>th</sup> graders while Phillips is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader who has a chance to have an impact on next year's varsity team. Along with those 3 players, Emma Christoff, Cassidy Rucker and Sophia Thompson are young, energetic players who are putting in work this off season and are motivated to be an integral part of the team's success in 2021!

On the boys side - we look forward to following their success in the spring being lead by Coach Greg Fisher.



## National Signing Day Features Three Franklin Golfers

As coaches we strive to help those players who want to compete at the next level achieve that goal. College golf is not for everybody. In fact, less than 10 percent of high school players go on to compete at the college level. So, when it happens it is a big deal. Three of our players from the Class of 2021 have committed to play college golf.

Damon Dickey has signed to play golf at Butler University. His efforts on the golf course and in the classroom enabled him to get a full ride with the Bulldogs who compete in the Big East Conference. Dickey obviously did not have a season this spring as a junior. He was named All-State by the IHSGCA as a sophomore and continued his excellent play in summer tournaments which caught the eye of college coaches. This past summer, Damon was the youngest player to make the cut in a tough field at the Indiana Open. Damon is the son of Brad and Carrie Dickey.

Ellie Beavins accepted an offer to play golf at Taylor University in Upland, IN. The Lady Trojan golf team is one of the top NAIA programs in the country. Besides her outstanding high school season, Ellie also won two IGA Junior tournaments this summer. Ellie is the daughter of Jill and her late father, Joel Beavins.

Liv Parramore achieved her goal of playing college golf at Savannah College of Art and Design when she accepted an offer to play for the Lady Bees in September. SCAD is truly a top NAIA women's golf program with a history of national success. This was a perfect marriage of academics and athletics for Liv who has architectural design as her professional goal. She is the daughter of Rob and Melissa

Parramore.

These three student-athletes are all examples of players who have worked hard to excel in the classroom and on the golf course. They have all demonstrated outstanding character and leadership. They know what it takes when it comes to work ethic and practice to become better players. Most importantly, they know that they must continue to improve if they will achieve their college playing goals. We hope to have more of our Franklin players competing in college.





## Crystal Morse Named Mid-State Conference Girls Coach of the Year

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Recently, the Mid-State Conference named Crystal Morse, PGA as the 2020 Girls Golf Coach of the Year. She helped guide FHCS to a conference championship as well as a 1-2-3 individual finish. Crystal handled the coaching duties by herself for three weeks while I was sidelined with a detached retina. She totally deserves this recognition and we are all proud of her!



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## The FCHS Golf Formula for Success

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We just conducted exit interviews with the players and parents of our girls' high school team. This is an important part of our coaching duties because it gives the coaches a chance to evaluate our players. We want our parents to be involved in the process because they are invested in the success of their kids in many ways. These meetings also give our parents and players the opportunity to offer suggestions to us as coaches.

It has been very apparent that all of the returning players in our girls' program want to improve. Hopefully, we can soon see that same motivation with the boys' program. The formula for success is pretty simple and it is one that is being followed by the best high school programs in Indiana. Our goal as coaches, and as teams, is to compete at the highest level in both our boys and girls programs.

What is the highest level? Certainly, it means competing at the IHSAA State Finals as a team or with individuals.

I. **Off-season workouts.** Franklin High School offers us the opportunity to work with Mike Hart, strength and conditioning coach. These will hopefully start in early December. They are voluntary, but critical if a player wants to improve their strength and flexibility. We will provide some type of workout routine even if it winds up being virtual- hopefully this doesn't happen.

2. **Professional Golf Instruction.** Franklin Golf is fortunate to be coached by two PGA professionals. Crystal and I are required to charge a fee out of season and we offer 45-minute lessons to our Franklin Golf players for only \$25. I am pleased to say that we have many who are currently working with both of us. Crystal is helping Ellie Beavins, Kara Heuchan, Maria Williams and Reese Phillips along with a bunch of our younger players. I am teaching Liv Parramore, Addison Livorno, Rylie Wilkison, Morgan Sandroock, Will McGuinness, Damon Dickey and I work on putting with Ava Ray. Whether it is with Crystal or me, we encourage our players to get professional instruction.

3. **Summer Tournament Participation.** This is an absolute key for all players. When Tom Watson was 13 years old he played in an exhibition with Arnold Palmer. Tom's dad asked Arnold

for some advice on what Tom could do to get better and the response was simple, "Play in as many tournaments as you can." Experience helps calm the nerves in the big moments. I have really seen this with players like Damon, Ellie, Liv and Ava. They all had extensive experience in tournament play and it made high school seem easy.



Tommy Watson and Arnold Palmer wait at the tee.

All three of these ingredients are voluntary. As coaches we cannot require our players to do any of them. If a player does all three it still won't guarantee success or a spot in the starting lineup. But, the players that buy into the formula for success will give themselves the best chance at succeeding!

## What is the future of the Franklin Golf Club?

We have big plans for the Franklin Golf Club. It will continue to be an integral part of bringing a sense of community support for Franklin Golf. Our goal is to get as many people to join the Franklin Golf Club as possible. **This includes our players, parents and friends of the golf program.** Dues will be used to offset expenses such as meals and equipment that cannot be covered by our school's athletic department. Stay tuned for more information.

In the meantime, we encourage you to join Franklin Golf Club NOW for a fee of \$40. These are individual memberships. Every member will receive a golf hat and Franklin Golf decal. This will help benefit Franklin Golf. Please show your support for our kids and program! We will be developing a web site. In the meantime, you can join at The Legends or mail the form in.

Ted Bishop, PGA

Crystal Morse, PGA

**FRANKLIN GOLF CLUB- 2021 MEMBERSHIP**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

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