

Island Sports



K.C. Barrett takes a putt for the North Kingstown High School golf team. The team finished last season undefeated and looks to have a strong team this year as well.

Skippers golf season swings into action

By Stephanie Heelan Cotsonas

The North Kingstown High School golf team opened its season with three tournaments over the past two weeks.

Last week, the Skippers competed in the two-day High School Challenge Cup Championships at the Alpine Country Club. The next day they competed in the Adamonis Cup held at the New England Country Club where they placed third.

In the first contest of the season on April 8, North played in the Southern Division Kickoff Tournament at the Richmond Country Club and placed second to Chariho.

"We played against all the teams in our division and Chariho beat us by one stroke. We were plus 23 and they were plus 22," Head Coach Domenic Marcone said.

Last season the Skippers were undefeated in regular season match-ups for the third year. This season, the golfers in Division I continue to be strong but the Skippers have a lot of returning players. "We are pretty solid this year. We lost one starter from the starting six, Ian O'Dwyer, who graduated but we have most of

our golfers back," Marcone said. Jamestown resident O'Dwyer was in the number four spot last season and was one of only two seniors on the team.

Islanders Michael Donnelly, Greg North, K.C. Barrett and Ryan Southworth are on the Skippers roster this season. "They are doing fine. Greg played in both tournaments last week. Mike and K.C. should be in the mix also. We should have some good competition for that fifth and sixth spot," the coach said.

"Ryan Southworth is one freshman who is playing pretty well and should break the starting lineup. He has a passion for the game, which is good," Marcone added.

Junior Greg North has been playing golf since he was 8 years old and grew up playing at the Jamestown Country Club. He is happy to be competing at the high school level. "I just started actually playing matches and it has been fun. I am looking to improve more, but as a team we are playing well. Everyone seems psyched for the new season," said North.

Marcone is in his 13th season as head golf coach and is known for his fairness and consistency.

He has a simple policy. "Everyone competes on the team and the six best averages for the week get to play in the matches." Greg North is enjoying playing for Marcone. "He is a good coach; he gives us good tips and gives us things to improve on."

The Skippers roster has 15 golfers, including seven seniors, which makes this year an important one when developing the younger talent according to Marcone. "I kept 15 kids on the team. I usually keep between 10 and 12, so we are looking to build for the future as we are going to lose a lot of seniors this year."

After the close second place finish to Chariho at the Kickoff Tournament, Marcone is confident heading into the regular season. "We are still pretty strong. Chariho is going to compete. South Kingstown was young last year, they'll be okay. There is Westerly and Prout; we have our work cut out for us."

The Skippers started their regular season matches this week and will meet Coventry High School today at the Coventry Pines Golf Course.

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Girls softball information meeting Tuesday, April 29

The Jamestown Parks and Recreation Department is accepting registrations for the 2008 Girls Softball League.

The league is open to girls in grades 1 to 8 and costs \$35 per child and \$25 each additional child, with a maximum fee of \$60 per family.

Opening Day will be Saturday, May 3 with games and practices on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and

Saturday mornings. Volunteer coaches are still needed and high school students are encouraged to volunteer for community service hours. Anyone interested in helping should attend an informational meeting Tuesday, April 29, at 6:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center. Registration forms are available at the recreation office, 41 Conanicus Ave. or online at www.jamestownri.net.

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A Location Near You In New England

Learn to swim at URI

The next session of swimming lessons at the University of Rhode Island's Tootell Center runs from May 19 to June 23.

A wide range of swimming and fitness classes for all ages are available.

There will be a registration session at Tootell on Saturday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Visit the website at www.uri.edu or call the REC Service Center at 874-5926, for more information on our programs and registration.

Cycle to help MS research

The 21st Annual Fidelity Investments Bike MS will be held Saturday, June 21 to Sunday, June 22, as the state's largest event to eliminate multiple sclerosis. Open to the public, hundreds of cyclists will gather to complete a scenic, 150-mile round trip that will wind from Cranston to Providence and through the East Bay before ending at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth campus for an overnight. The event will take a different route the next day.

Last year's event raised a record-breaking \$700,000. All proceeds fund research to find a cure, as well as equipment, education and support programs for Rhode Islanders suffering from the degenerative disease.

To register individually or as a team, prospective cyclists should visit <http://www.ms150ri.com> or call 738-8383.