

Contest 04: Sports Writing

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Write your sports story using any word processing program you choose.
- Next, convert the file to a PDF for submission.
- Entries must be uploaded by 6 p.m. CDT Oct. 18, 2021.

DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME OR SCHOOL NAME ON YOUR ENTRY.

WHAT JUDGES LOOK FOR

- Attention-grabbing lead
- Strong focus on a clear angle; not a bio of the speaker
- Use of facts rather than generalizations
- Good use of colorful detail and description
- Makes use of informative direct quotes and strong transitions
- Few convention errors; consistent use of journalistic style
- Accuracy, completeness and elimination of extraneous material

ASSIGNMENT:

Use the information provided on the prompt sheet to write a sports story of no more than 350 words. You may NOT make up additional facts or quotes. Be sure to look for a specific angle for your story.

SCHOOL INFORMATION:

Central High School
Mascot: Patriots
Gold and Black

TOPIC:

WOMEN'S GOLF SEASON ENDS

- The women's golf team had one of its best overall seasons with highlights including sending two players to State and defeating their biggest rival, Liberty West, for the first time in a decade.
- Central High School had five returning varsity golfers, but only one senior, Julia Lutz, who was in her fourth year as a varsity golfer.
- Lutz spent the summer traveling and playing golf in several major tournaments including a third place finish at the American Junior Golf Association in State College, Pennsylvania, and a second place finish at the Girls Junior PGA at Fox Creek.
- Lutz qualified for the state tournament for the fourth year and placed second overall. She will play for Michigan State next year.
- In the pre-season St. Martin's Scramble, Central placed third overall with a score of 327, just behind Liberty West 313 and St. Martin 256. Patriots with top finishes included Julia Lutz (-3 par), Emily Calvert (-1 par), Tia Menedez (+2 par).
- Junior Emily Calvert also qualified for state for the first time and finished 31st overall.
- Calvert had two birdies at state, which was her best performance in a competition this season.
- The state tournament was reduced to a one-day, 18-hole event after rain washed out Monday's opening round.
- Lutz shot a 3-under-par for a score of 70 at state, just behind Liberty West's Erin Rhodes who shot a 6-under-par 67.
- Head coach John White announced at the end of season banquet that he will be retiring at the end of the school year after 37 years of coaching and teaching social studies.

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QUOTES:

- “I think coaches always want to end their career on a high note, and after the team’s performance this year, I am definitely doing that. I couldn’t be prouder of the way they played all season. It wasn’t just the matches that they won, but the way they played when the odds were against them. They were calm, collected and, most of all, focused. This team will have a special place in my heart forever.”
— Central coach John White
- “There are matches where you lose and matches where you get beat. This was definitely a situation where we got beat. We played really well, but Central was on fire today. Even when they made mistakes, they would make some great shots to overcome them. My hat’s off to coach White for his 37 years. We’ve had a great rivalry, I think, and he found a magnificent note to go out on by beating us for the first time in 10 years.” — Liberty West coach Rita Nicholas
- “Obviously going to state was great, but truthfully, finally beating Liberty was the highlight of the year for me. I am so glad we finally beat our biggest nemesis.” — junior Emily Calvert
- “I was just two strokes short of qualifying for state, which was a bummer. I messed it all up on the 17th hole. I should have hit a 3-wood off the tee. I hit a driver straight through the fairway, and I pulled it a little, so it went up into the trees and bushes. It took me two tries to get out of there, and then I had a six-foot putt for bogey.” — junior Audrey Foreman
- “During districts I had a real scare. On the 15th hole, the way the ball was buried in the sand, I felt lucky just to get it out of the trap. I was just hoping to get it close enough to have a good shot at a birdie. But when I felt it come out of the trap, I thought, ‘This has a chance.’ And then it rolled in the cup for an eagle — my first one in competitive play. It was amazing. It was as if it were happening in slow motion. And, that is what locked up the trip to state for me.” — senior Julia Lutz
- “At state I really only had one bad hole, but that is the difference at that level. On the par-3 11th hole, my tee shot went wide and sank into the water. But after a drop, I managed a great chip shot and an easy tap-in putt, so I was back in business, but it wasn’t enough to catch Erin that day. That is just how the sport is, and that is what makes it so exciting.” — senior Julia Lutz
- “It is hard to imagine our women’s golf program without coach John White, but we are so grateful for his leadership for the past 37 years. He has held a head coaching position longer than anyone else in the School District of Philadelphia. He is well respected not only by everyone who has played for him, but also by other golf coaches around the state. He was even named the state’s Coach of the Year an unbelievable 14 times in his career.” — athletic director Jason Choate
- “The state tournament itself was miserable because it was pouring rain the whole time and then changed to a one-day round. But, it was still great experience for the future and really special to be there with Julia as she finished her high school career. She is an incredible golfer and an even better person. I’m really going to miss having her around next season.” — junior Emily Calvert
- “Most people recognize that golf is not a sport where the team can support you and carry you to the finish. Each player is very much out there on their own. But, at Central, I have worked to make sure the girls know they are still very much part of a unit and that each individual performance contributes to the success of that unit. Also, when a player knows that they are working toward a team goal as well as a personal goal, it adds even more motivation.” — Central coach John White

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ADDITIONAL STATS:

The team's home course was the Walnut Lane Golf Club. They played their home matches there and also used the facility for practice. The club was just 15 minutes from Central in the Wissahickon Valley Park.

The course was designed by Alex Findlay. In early 1887, Findlay emigrated from Scotland and became the first man on record to construct a course and play golf on U.S. soil. His first course was located in Nebraska. From 1880 until his death in 1942, he designed approximately 130 courses across the country, earning him the title, Father of American Golf.

Walnut Lane opened for play in 1940 and is highlighted by several challenging par 3s. The unique layout features several holes that are tucked away in hills and valleys.

Central coach John White has used the club throughout his coaching career at Central. He said, "The course is lined with trees and is just beautiful, and that is what often deceives people. It looks so idyllic, but it is unbelievably challenging and is the ideal shot-maker's golf course."

About The Course:

18-Hole Executive Length Course

* An "executive length course" is shorter than a standard golf course and has a lower par because it's usually comprised of more par-3 and par-4 holes than a typical golf course.

Par: 70 | Yards: 4,609

Varsity: Lowest 18-hole score at Walnut Lane this season:

senior Julia Lutz / 66 strokes

junior Emily Calvert / 68 strokes

junior Tia Menedez / 70 strokes

sophomore Addie Chen / 78 strokes

freshman Teja Kodruth / 78 strokes

sophomore Bobbie Zahn / 82 strokes