

Golf Season Preview

Golf is a full swing ahead through the first month of school. As of Sept. 5, the Joel Barlow Golf team has competed in seven matches. The boys hold a 5-2 record, a vast difference from their 0-7 start last year. For those unfamiliar with how a typical match scores, five scorers per school will be selected to participate, and the top four scores will be used to calculate the result.

This team is led by 14-year head coach Steven Antal, who is joined by volunteer coach Michael McElwee. Both coaches are familiar faces around Joel Barlow for their teaching responsibilities. Coach Antal teaches Wellness, while Coach McElwee teaches Social Studies. Antal enjoys coaching because he likes to see his athletes develop and improve their skills over the years. He also says that golf is a game you can play in your older years.

The Joel Barlow Golf team is fortunate to have access to the Redding Country Club course for practice. Between the two coaches, it can be hard to allocate time to each of the 14 players on the roster. Coach Antal described his practices, "We go around the course ... if I see something significant, I will give a suggestion, but it is mostly guys tweaking their own swings."

Four-year starter, Captain Milo Lee and Mason Perry headline as the team's two seniors. Three juniors to keep an eye on this season are Austin Cameron, Barrett Commisso, and Ryan Klem. Nate Chapin, Jack Fanzo, John Gurney, Charlie Jimenez, Quinn Kirk, Jon Krausche, Andrew Malay, Brenden McDermott, and Gray Stant conclude the roster.

According to Coach Antal, the goal for this year's boys' golf team is to qualify for the South-West Conference postseason and the CIAC state tournament. The team looks to improve its conference shortcomings from last year after missing the SWC postseason. However, last year's group exceeded expectations as the 13th seed in the state tournament, finishing seventh.

The golf team finished the season with a 7-9 record and an 8th-place finish in the SWC postseason on October 14. The team will compete in the state tournament on October 22 at Keney Park.