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Sports

Mt. Vernon's Shoemaker survives regional cut

*Season ends for Annies,
Salem and rest of the
Lady Rams*

BY MIKE MCMANUS
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EFFINGHAM — If it were the hit television show "Survivor" instead of the prep golf season, Mt. Vernon's Lexie Shoemaker would be the last large-school girls player remaining on the island.

Playing in Wednesday's Effingham Class 2A Regional at Effingham Country Club, the Lady Rams junior was the only area player to keep her season afloat, as Shoemaker tied for the eighth and final spot afforded to individual players not on an advancing team. For her efforts, Shoemaker will play Monday in the Belleville Althoff Sectional, which will be played at Clinton Hill Golf Course in Swansea.

The brutally tough layout at ECC

didn't prove to be as nice to Shoemaker's teammates or players from Centralia and Salem. Salem enjoyed the highest team finish among the area squads, placing 10th, while the Lady Rams were 11th and the Orphan Annies 12th.

The trip to the sectional will be the first for Shoemaker. One of the final players to complete her round, Shoemaker shot 102, tying Charleston's Maddie Burgett for the eighth and final individual spot.

"I really wanted to shoot in the 90s no matter what," Shoemaker said. "Obviously, that didn't happen, and I didn't think 102 would be enough to get me in.

"But this course was hard. I was really struggling. It's about as tough as any course I have ever played."

Starting on the back nine first, Shoemaker made the turn at 53 but came in with a 49 on the front side.

"This is a very hard course," said Lady Rams head coach Amber Tiefel. "I couldn't believe they [the IHSA] a regional was here. Lexie



**SOME TIME ON
THE BEACH — Mt.
Vernon's Lexie
Shoemaker works
out of a greenside
bunker on the
18th hole during
Wednesday's
Class AA regional
held at Effingham
Country Club.**

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Sentinel Photo/MIKE MCMANUS

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was having a really hard time out there, but she stayed with it. It's her first time out [of the regional], so I'm excited for her and I know she's really excited."

For Salem, junior Lindsey Sapp shot a round of 110 to give the Lady Wildcats their best score.

"It was a tough regional and a tough course," said Lady

Wildcats head coach Megan Grizzle. "But something we didn't do earlier in the season was hold our composure, and today, on a tough course, we held our composure and finished out. Overall, I can't really complain, other than how tough the course is."

The Annie's got 122s from Maggie Middleton as well as Lindsey Branson to comprise the top half of their scorecard.

"Our girls had a hard time, obviously," said Centralia head coach Doug Jack. "I think they each made some good shots, but you could tell early they were frustrated and it kind of snowballed. They want to get better and improve and that will come in the summer. They know that's what it's going to take."

The regional title went the way of Champaign Centennial, which shot 410 to nip Normal Community for the top spot. The team to advance to Clinton Hill was Mahomet-Seymour. The Lady Bulldogs shot 417, taking third by one stroke over Mount Zion.

The low rounds of the day were 83s from Effingham's Kayla Klosterman and Hannah Johnston from Mount Zion. Johnston won medalist honors by topping Klosterman, who did have a hole-in-one on the par-3 eighth hole in her round, in a one-hole playoff.

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