



Sentinel Photo/RICK HAYES

GETTING ON TOP — Mt. Vernon's Moriah Kirkpatrick chips up on the green on the fourth hole at Green Hills Golf Course Thursday during a dual match with Centralia. The Orphan Annie's Maggie Middleton watches Kirkpatrick's shot.

Orphan Annie's nip Lady Rams on links

BY RICK HAYES

SENTINEL SPORTS STAFF

MT. VERNON — Despite not having the lowest single score, Centralia's girls golf team was consistent enough at the top to nip Mt. Vernon by three strokes to win its second dual match of the season Thursday at Green Hills Golf Course.

PREP GOLF

Centralia posted two scores in the 40s, with junior Datyn Sodsakitich, the Orphan Annie's No. 1 player, carding a 48 and junior Maggie Middleton shooting a 49 on the par-35 course.

Mt. Vernon's Lexie Shoemaker earned medalist honors with a 42, getting pars on three holes. However, Mt. Vernon's next golfer, Moriah Kirkpatrick, was 14 strokes in back of Shoemaker.

"It's a good conference win for us, and the girls know now that they can come out and compete with certain teams in the conference. I'm sure it means a lot to them. I know it gives them confidence that there is a purpose for them being out here," said Centralia coach Doug Jack.

Centralia's scoring was rounded out by Morgan O'Dell with a 56 and Jesse Kracht fired a 57 as the top four scores were counted. Other Annie's playing, but not figuring in the scoring were Erin Witzel and Rachel Ferris with a 69 and 74, respectively.

"When you have six girls that can go out there and encourage each other, they're all capable of throwing out the same type of numbers. I've been trying to get to concentrate and focus in a little bit here and there, to concentrate on each shot. Seeing two girls in the

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40s for us, that might be the first time this year," said Jack.

In addition to Mt. Vernon's top two scores, Paige McDonald's 58 and Annalee Schuette's 59 were counted to the Lady Rams' total.

"We're getting better," said Mt. Vernon coach Amber Tieffel. "We only had six pickups the whole night. If

you get anything worse than double-par, we just pick it up and put a circle around it and add a stroke. It's not really showing your true score, but we are getting less pickups. At the beginning of the season, we were picking up on a lot of holes."

Tieffel, despite the defeat, said she likes the way the Rams have played recently.

"I feel like we're improving a lot. I'm proud of the team because we're having less pickups, our overall score is improving, their individual scores are improving and the averages are going down,"

she said.

The Lady Rams finished third in a triangular match on Wednesday at Clinton Hills Golf Course in Belleville. Althoff won the match with a 158, followed by Alton (179) and Mt. Vernon (212). Shoemaker had a 42 to lead the Rams.

Mt. Vernon and Centralia will participate in the Salem Invitational on Saturday.

"I'm just trying to get these girls to get better each time they get out. That's our goal: just to keep getting better," Jack said.

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