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Sports

Marion dominates league outing

*Centralia fourth, Lady
Rams take fifth at
South 7 tourney*

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CARLYLE — On a day loaded with plenty of bluster, the Marion Lady Wildcats golf team displayed its luster Monday at Governors Run Golf Course in Carlyle.

PREP GOLF

Playing in howling winds that topped 30 miles per hour, the reigning Class AA state champions had little trouble defending their South Seven Conference title, as the Lady Wildcats cruised to a 37-stroke win with an absurd four-player score of 309. Shooting a score that would win its fair share of league tournaments, Althoff had no player shoot higher than 91, but was a distant second with its 346 while Carbondale was well behind the top two but still took third with a 418.

Fourth went to Centralia, as the Annies shot 446, while Mt. Vernon's Lady Rams were fifth, shooting a team score of 485.

Lady Wildcats' accounted for the



Sentinel Photo/MIKE MCMANUS

AN UPHILL CLIMB — Mt. Vernon's Rachel Bumpus chips her ball from just off the green at the ninth hole during Monday's South Seven Conference Golf Tournament at Governors Run in Carlyle.

top three scores in the tournament. Leading the impressive showing in the adverse conditions was Cassie Rushing, who earned medalist honors with a round of even par 72. Ruhsing proved three strokes bet-

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ter than her sister Ashleigh, as Ashleigh Rushing and teammate Campbell Hunt each shot 75 to tie for second. With a 77 that was good for fourth, Carbondale's Caroline Kwak broke Marion's stranglehold on the leaderboard.

"As strong as Althoff and Marion are, we were hoping we could get third," said Annies' head coach Doug Jack. "The difference between Carbondale and us is the they have a girl [Kwak] who has the ability to go really low and she did today. We were right there with them today with the exception of her."

Centralia's top round came from Lindsey Branson, who posted splits of 51 and 51 in shooting 102. It was just Branson's third event of the season, as she has missed the bulk of the year due to an illness.

"She played a really con-

sistent round," Jack said. "To have only played three matches, that's a great score for her."

Right behind Branson was Maggie Middleton, who shot a 103. Jesse Kracht had a 113 and Datyn Sodsakitch struggled to a 128 to proved Centralia with its fourth score.

"I really feel like the weather had a lot to with our numbers," Jack said. "But everybody here played in the exact same conditions, so we really can't use that as an excuse. We just had a tough day, but there are some things we can keep working on between now and the regional. One thing I'd like to see a more serious approach at times."

A junior, Lexie Shoemaker had Mt. Vernon's best score of the day with a 110. Other players figuring in the scoring for the Lady Rams were Rachel Bumpus, Paige McDonald and Mariah Kirkpatrick.

The Annies and Lady Rams will join Nashville today at Greenview Golf Course in Centralia for a triangular match.

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