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Prescott girls golf books fourth consecutive trip to state, chasing third straight title

Cardinals win fourth consecutive regional, sectional championships

By Reagan Hoverman

The Prescott Cardinals are one step closer to winning a third consecutive WIAA Division 2 State championship.

Prescott's girls' golf team punched its ticket to the 2022 state tournament on Monday, Oct. 3, when it won the WIAA Division 2 Sectional championship at The Hidden Greens North Golf Course in Solon Springs. The sectional championship came less than a week after Prescott had won the Division 2 Regional championship at the Pheasant Hills Golf Course in Hammond on Wednesday, Sept. 28.

The Lady Cardinals punched their ticket to state on Monday, Oct. 3, with that aforementioned sectional championship victory up in Solon Springs. The course, located more than two hours north of Prescott had all of the typical Northwoods characteristics, including tree-lined holes and sparse grass that favored seasoned ball strikers like senior Ava

Salay.

"Ava is really good with her ball striking. She doesn't miss very many shots," Chad Salay said. "When you're a good ball striker, you're going to separate on a course like that. This is a course where a ball striker is going to separate much more and that's what you saw there today."

Ava won the individual state championship with an individual score of 73, seven shots clear of the second-place finisher. Other scores include sophomore Gabbi Matzek's round of 83, senior Rhi Stutz posted a score of 84, Maddie Reiter shot a 91 and Jeanne Rohl rounded out the scoring with a round of 98. Chad Salay spoke about winning another sectional championship.

"For the girls, it's still exciting because it's a different team and there are a couple of newcomers that haven't been there," Chad Salay said. "They were just as excited as any other team has been. Even the veterans are excited for them. I think



Ava Salay rolls an eagle putt during a round at the Pheasant Hills Golf Course earlier this season. Salay and the rest of the Prescott Cardinals roster won their fourth consecutive WIAA Division 2 Regional championship at Pheasant Hills on Wednesday, Sept. 28. Prescott also won its fourth consecutive WIAA Division 2 Sectional championship at the Hidden Greens North Golf Course in Solon Springs on Monday, Oct. 3. Prescott's team score of 331 beat the runner-up by 31 strokes. The Cardinals will chase a third consecutive WIAA Division 2 State championship on Monday, Oct. 10, and Tuesday, Oct. 11, at the University Ridge Golf Course in Madison. Photo by Reagan Hoverman

a lot of them are just excited about the week experience leading up to state."

The 37-shot victory at the sectional tournament was just a continuation of the success that Prescott experienced at regionals, where the Cardinals won by 38 strokes. Prescott's team score of 330 meant that the team essentially shot its season average. The aforementioned Ava Salay shot a 75, which was five shots above

her average, while Matzek's round of 85 was five shots below her average.

"We shot (at regionals) what we've been averaging all year," Chad Salay said. "Gabbi Matzek played better than her average for the year, so we're super pumped about that. Ava played a little bit above her average and Rhi Stutz and Jeanne Rohl played right to their number. It was just an average round for us."

Prescott shot another average round at the sectional and again left with some hardware to add to the trophy case. Ava Salay's round of 73 will grab the headlines, but Matzek's 83 as a sophomore made some noise on the individual leaderboard where she finished in a tie for third with Ava Pesha of Somerset.

"Gabbi Matzek played unreal, for a five girl on our team she finished top

five (overall)," Chad Salay said. "She played awesome. Especially for her first sectional ever as a sophomore, for her to finish top five is incredible."

Now that Prescott has won the regional and sectional championships, the next step is to claim a third consecutive WIAA Division 2 State championship. The state championship is

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Spring Valley senior setter Phoebe Vodnik (#4) yells in celebration as the team gathers together after Charlie Vanasse (#11) got a kill during the 3-1 home victory against Colfax on Tuesday, Sept. 27. Photo by Reagan Hoverman

SV volleyball chasing first conference championship in more than a decade

By Reagan Hoverman

For Spring Valley volleyball head coach Kelli Schlegel, the Tuesday night victory over perennial powerhouse Colfax felt like finally getting over the hump.

That matchup between Spring Valley and Colfax, which both entered with undefeated 3-0 records in Dunn-St. Croix Conference play, proved that the Cardinals are truly chasing a conference championship for the first time in more than a decade.

The Spring Valley Cardinals played four tough sets against Colfax before finally defeating the Vikings on Tuesday, Sept. 27. Coach Schlegel spoke about defeating a team that has won eight of the last nine conference championships.

"We haven't beat Colfax in a couple of years, so this feels good," Schlegel said after the match. "They've been conference champs several years in a row."



Spring Valley senior setter Phoebe Vodnik (#4) sets a ball to freshman outside hitter Ella Stangl during the Cardinals' home victory against Colfax on Tuesday, Sept. 27. Vodnik accounts for more than 95% of Spring Valley's assists as a team. She controls the entire offense. Photo by Reagan Hoverman

Spring Valley got out to a great start by winning the right to serve and then scor-

ing the first six points of the opening set, which caused

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Spring Valley sophomore Cade Stasiak bounces a quarterback keeper to the outside during the Cardinals' 34-18 road victory against Turtle Lake on Friday, Sept. 30. Photo by Reagan Hoverman



Spring Valley senior defensive lineman Cole Steinmeyer lays a big hit on Turtle Lake junior quarterback Walker Korish. The hit forced a wobbly ball that eventually landed incomplete. Photo by Reagan Hoverman

SV football wins gritty road game against Turtle Lake

Spring Valley remains perfect 5-0 in conference play

By Reagan Hoverman

Winning a potentially season-defining game against a good football team on the road in a hostile crowd environment can say a lot about a team. Spring Valley did exactly that against Turtle Lake on Friday, Sept. 30.

It was a high-stakes contest between the two Dunn-St. Croix Conference schools. Spring Valley entered the game 4-0 in league play while Turtle Lake had a 3-1 record. A Turtle Lake victory would have made it a four-way tie at the top of the standings between Spring Valley, Turtle Lake, Cadott and Elmwood/Plum City.

Instead, Spring Valley secured a 34-18 victory, improved to 6-1 overall and 5-0 in Dunn-St. Croix Conference play and took control of the conference championship race with only two weeks remaining in the regular season.

Spring Valley received the opening kick and went straight into its patented rushing attack that featured junior Diego Schmitt. He took the first several carries of the game and began moving the chains for the Cardinals.

Spring Valley didn't throw a single pass on the opening drive, which the aforementioned Schmitt capped off with a 14-yard

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WIAA SECTIONAL CHAMPIONS!

PRESCOTT CARDINALS

Cardinals will seek third straight State Championship next week!



Ava Salay of the Prescott girls golf team rolls in an eagle putt on the par-five 16th hole at Clifton Hollow. It was the first of two back-nine eagles for Salay, the second coming at the par-five 18th. *Photo by Reagan Hoverman*



Prescott Regional Champs: (L-R): Prescott seniors Maddie Rundquist, Rhi Stutz, Maddie Reiter, Ava Salay, and sophomores Gabbi Matzek and Jeanne Rohl celebrate with the WIAA 2022 Division 2 Regional championship trophy at the Pheasant Hills Golf Course in Hammond on Wednesday, Sept. 28. Prescott's score of 330 won the tournament by 38 shots. *Photo courtesy of Prescott Girls Golf*



Prescott senior Ava Salay hits driver off of the 10th tee during the 2022 Middle Border Conference championship meet at the Clifton Hollow Golf Course on Monday, Sept. 26. Salay posted a two-under par round of 70 that included two eagles on the back nine. *Photo by Reagan Hoverman*



Prescott sophomore Gabbi Matzek holds her pose after hitting iron from the middle of the 14th fairway during the WIAA Division 2 Regional at Pheasant Hills Golf Course in Hammond on Wednesday, Sept. 28. *Photo by Reagan Hoverman*

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Ava Salay of the Prescott girls golf team lines up a putt for birdie on the second hole of the 2022 WIAA Division 2 Regional tournament. Slay made the putt moments later, which helped her shoot a round of 75 on Wednesday afternoon. *Photo by Reagan Hoverman*

Cardinals seek to '3-peat!'

Prescott girls golf will head to the WIAA State Girls Golf Meet Monday and Tuesday as the two-time reigning Division 2 Champion!

In 2020, Prescott became the first public school ever to win a Division 2 girls golf title. They defended that crown in 2021, running away with the championship.

The two-day meet will be held Oct. 10-11 at University Ridge in Madison. Check out next week's edition of The Journal for state results!

WIAA SECTIONAL CHAMPIONS!

PRESCOTT CARDINALS



Cardinals will seek third straight State Championship next week!



Prescott sophomore Gabbi Matzek and assistant coach Darren Reiter high five after Matzek hit an excellent shot to the middle of the 14th green at Pheasant Hills during the regional tournament. Photo by Reagan Hoverman



Prescott sophomore Jeanne Rohl and head coach Chad Salay talk about what type of shot to hit from the second cut on the second hole at the Pheasant Hills Golf Course in Hammond. Rohl posted a score of 89 en route to Prescott's regional championship. Photo by Reagan Hoverman



Prescott senior Rhi Stutz blasts a driver down the middle of the fairway of the seventh hole during the Middle Border Conference championship at the Clifton Hollow Golf Course on Monday, Sept. 26. Photo by Reagan Hoverman



Sophomore Jeanne Rohl picks a target down the fairway before hitting driver off of the tee on the second hole at the Pheasant Hills Golf Course on Wednesday afternoon. Photo by Reagan Hoverman



Pictured on the left, Prescott senior Rhi Stutz flops a ball out of a greenside bunker on the second hole during the WIAA Division 2 Regional championship on Wednesday, Sept. 28. Photo by Reagan Hoverman



Pictured on the right is Senior Maddie Rundquist chips from the rough behind the second green at the Clifton Hollow Golf Course during the 2022 Middle Border Conference Championship. Photo by Reagan Hoverman



Prescott Girls Golf

Way to Go!

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Prescott senior Maddie Reiter hits a knockdown wedge on the first hole of the 2022 WIAA Division 2 Regional championship. Reiter posted a 42 front nine and a 48 back nine for an overall round of 90 on Wednesday afternoon. Photo by Reagan Hoverman

Congratulations Cardinal Golfers!

You make us proud!

School District of Prescott

Prescott GG

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the only portion of the high school golf playoffs that is a two-day event, which head coach Chad Salay believes is an advantage for his girls.

"I feel like some of these rain-shortened events that we've had have cost us a little bit," Chad Salay said. "We're confident that the more golf we play, we're going to sepa-

rate (from the competition)."

Coach Salay stated that the preparation method to get his girls ready for University Ridge in Madison is by playing Troy Burne in River Falls. According to Salay, the courses play fairly alike. The depth and difficulty of the bunkers are similar and so are the putting surfaces and speeds of the greens.

"We'll go to Troy Burne every day this week. The greens feel very similar and the course itself is comparable," Chad Salay said. "The tight bent-grass fairways and the green

complexes are great prep for state. We just don't have bunkers to work out of at Highlands or Hollow."

Prescott will play a practice round on Sunday before the official competition begins on Monday and finishes on Tuesday. Now that the Cardinals are knocking on the door of a third consecutive state championship, he spoke about the confidence level heading into the biggest tournament of the year.

"It feels like we're on our way and I feel like the sectional was a big step," Chad Salay

said. "I saw some nerves from our girls that kind of got ironed out a bit. I saw nerves (at sectionals) and I thought, 'This is going to be good. Because now they've played an unfamiliar course in a playoff atmosphere.' I think now they know how it's going to feel when they get to a state tournament. We're prepped and ready to go."

Prescott will travel later this week and spend the weekend in Madison before day one of the state tournament begins on Monday morning.



Freedom Park Executive Director Israel Haas describes changes that have been made with exhibits being moved from the main floor to the walls during the Sunset Soiree annual fundraiser Saturday night. Photo by John McLoone



Visitors at the Freedom Park Sunset Soiree toasted following brief remarks by Executive Director Israel Haas. The German-themed event will help raise money for Freedom Park programming and initiatives. Freedom Park is in the midst of a three-phase program to update the building and expand exhibits. Photo by John McLoone

'Reimagined' Freedom Park toasted at event

By John McLoone

PRESCOTT – The gem of Prescott was the toast of the town Saturday night, as a big crowd was on hand at Freedom Park for the Sunset Soiree annual fundraiser.

Featuring a German Oktoberfest theme, visitors mingled in the exhibit space that's in the process of being "reimagined," enjoying German food and beverages and bidding on silent auction items to benefit the Freedom Park mission.

The event culminated with a sunset toast in the evening.

Freedom Park Executive Director Israel Haas said that big things are happening now and on the drawing board at Freedom Park, which hasn't updated exhibits since it opened in 2006.

Phase one of the work at Freedom Park is underway, with many large exhibits moved onto wall space to open up the room. Phase two will be a mezzanine built over the main exhibit room, with office and storage space.

That will lead to an ambitious phase three. The newly launched Freedom Park website describes it as, "We will engage the community as we re-envision what exhibits should look like for our world today in order to make them more engaging and family-friendly."

"This is what we are doing to create an even better Freedom Park," Haas said prior to the sunset toast.

He credited volunteers who planned the event and help run the center and donors.

"You are the reason that we're here, that we exist and that we will continue to exist," he said.

Haas said Freedom Park will be actively seeking grant funds to see new initiatives to fruition.

The website states, "We're so excited to share how we've reimagined this space. Our goal is to create a center where people can gather to connect, experience the beauty of our two mighty rivers, and engage in diverse perspectives and local history."

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www.OnoUnitedMethodistChurch.org
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www.stmaryshammond.org
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Rev. Andrew Church
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