

Saints golf team boosters

2018 Season Overview

Heading into the season, everyone involved with the team knew it would be a rebuilding year since none of our six varsity lettermen from the 2017 team returned. This created great opportunities for new players to play in varsity matches, get extensive match experience and play some really nice golf courses throughout the season as they represented the team. Besides the opportunities this provided on the varsity, it also meant that spots were open on the junior varsity for young players to fast-forward their own experience levels through extra matches and rounds with the team. For many reasons, though our team didn't win the Western League, I believe I speak for the entire coaching staff (Christian Da Luz, Bill Davis, Jess Wilson, and Tom Graciano) in saying that this season was extremely rewarding as we had a great group of players who continuously improved throughout the year. At the beginning of the season our team posted some pretty high scores but what made the season so fun was watching our individuals improve, bringing the team scores down consistently as the season went along. Our varsity competed in 26 matches while our JV played in 18 and while we played some very nice courses along the way (Lomas Santa Fe Country Club, Fairbanks Ranch CC), the definite highlight of the season was serving as the host school for the 18 hole San Diego Country Club Invitational. There is a special kind of feeling know that our team at the end of the season was clearly better than the one we started with in mid-February; by the end of the 2018 season, our scoring average was pretty close to the scores the 2017 team was posting, representing great growth and providing a lot of anticipation for a great the 2019 season!

2018 Varsity Lettermen (all earned their 1st varsity letter this year)

- Diego Bremer – 10th grade. Started his freshman year on the Developmental Team and by end of last year had worked his way to JV. Improved greatly from end of last season and was in the varsity top 6 all season this year.
- Anthony Konja – 10th. Started 9th grade towards the bottom of JV team but worked higher throughout last year, reaching a high point of #12 on the roster. Anthony was in the varsity top 6 throughout 2018 and qualified for San Diego CIF at Admiral Baker
- Brandon Toscano – 11th. Played on the Developmental Team during 9th grade, JV throughout 10th grade, and over the 2nd half of 2018 his game took off. Over the last 8 matches this season, he was our #2 player by scoring average
- Rodrigo Bremer – 11th. Played on Developmental Team and some JV in 9th grade, was in the #7-9 spots throughout his sophomore year, and was consistently the #2 or #3 player this year. Qualified for City League Match Play and CIF San Diego at Admiral Baker
- Liam Hudson – 11th. A baseball player at Saints in 9th grade, Liam was consistently in the #7-9 spots in 10th grade and was #1 on the team throughout the 2018 season. Qualified for City League Match Play and CIF San Diego at Admiral Baker
- Hugh Maguire – 12th. Joined the golf team in his junior year and was #15-19 throughout last year. Game really improved this year and he was in the top 6 most of this season. Heading to Gonzaga in the fall where his brother Liam, also a former Saints golf team member, is a student.

Team Awards

- Nolan Steinbuch – “9th Grader of the Year” and “Most Improved” over the season. Nolan was a beginning golfer last fall but proved to be a quick learner because of his work ethic. Starting strictly on the Developmental Team, Nolan caught the eyes of the coaches during the middle of the season and was moved up to the JV (and even played in a few varsity matches along the

way!). With his dedication and desire to play tournaments this summer, it will be interesting to see how much further Nolan improves in the coming years with the team

- Andres Garza – 10th. “Ladder Climber” award for moving from his status as a beginner on the Developmental Team as a 9th grader to being in the #7-8 spot in 2018. Andres played in many varsity matches, continued working hard to improve his game throughout the offseason, and saw his scores improve immensely. With two more years of improvement ahead, there is no telling how much further he will go up the ladder!
- Daniel Gutierrez – 10th, “Newcomer of the Year”. Daniel joined the team in 2018 and made his impact felt both with his play and, more significantly, with his great attitude. Daniel gained extensive match experience this season, playing in both varsity and JV matches and reaching a high of #7 on the ladder. Daniel’s biggest asset is his affable personality and conversations on a wide range of topics; coaches and players alike enjoy being around him both on and off the course!
- Hugh Maguire – 12th, “Most Improved – Multiple Season”. Starting with the team as an inexperienced golfer in his junior year, Hugh was in the middle of the JV team last season but came back with a new sense of competitiveness this season and was in the top 6 throughout the season. When viewed through a two year lens, Hugh’s improvement was amazing!
- Liam Hudson -11th, “Player of the Year”. Liam was consistently in the top 9 players during his 1st year with the team as a sophomore but his game improved significantly during the 2018 season. He was our #1 player from the first day of the season and qualified for both San Diego Match Play as well as CIF San Diego. With a full slate of tournaments lined up this summer, look for Liam to have an even better senior season!

Golf team banquet guest speaker gives players advice

Erik Peterson (Saints 2009, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo) spoke at our golf team banquet and explained how playing high school golf at Saints, where he was a four-year varsity letterman, prepared him to continue moving forward when confronted with the many setbacks that inherently will arise in college, internships, and now in his career at Viasat. Erik explained that even though he never had the intention of being a professional golfer, he always wanted to 'move forward and improve his game each season' and that from his biggest disappointment with the golf team - when he missed qualifying for Southern California Sectionals by only 1 stroke - he took the best life lessons and greatest memories.

Saintsman plays for national collegiate championship team

- Congratulations to Tyler Whitaker (Saints 2017). He was on the club team at Grand Canyon University and played in all their matches throughout the season. Sporting the same purple for his new school as he did at Saints, Tyler was part of the National Championship GCU team this spring and is working to improve his game further.

Purple Gang

- Coaches Jess Wilson and Tom Graciano, along with longtime Saints teacher and golf coach Greg Ranney run the Purple Gang which is a group of Saints boosters who play golf once per month at local venues such as Barona Creek GC. You do not have to be a Saints alumnus to participate – the only requirement is that you enjoy a round of golf and support Saints! If you are interested in getting on the Purple Gang mailing list, send me a note and I will have them add you to the list

Mt. Woodson fundraiser set for Sunday September 30th

We are set for the 7th annual golf team fundraiser. It will be very similar to the past six years - \$125 per person (\$500 for a foursome). We will have our BBQ from 11:00-12:45pm so you can show up and have lunch with your team and other Saints boosters at your leisure prior to our 1:00pm shotgun start. We will keep things moving at a fairly quick pace of 4 ½ hours or less so that you are done by about 5:30pm. There is no commitment after the round is over except to pick up any raffle items or prizes your team won. This is our primary fundraiser and allows the team to play extra rounds of golf at our home courses and also use Saints golf balls during matches. With a total roster of over 25 players, Saints has the largest team in San Diego, resulting in a very large yearly greens fee charge to our budget. We also have committed to getting every player on the team a golf bag of their own to keep (cost of \$200 each) as it is a large part of the identity of being a golfer for Saints. The easiest way to support the team is come out to Mt. Woodson with us for the afternoon but if you have other commitments that day, we also have a raffle along with this event that has over 50 golf related items (you do not have to be present to win in the raffle). If you would like to reserve a foursome or have any other questions about the event, send me an email.

On behalf of the five coaches as well as 27 golf team members and their families: Thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout the season! We are proud to represent Saints as we have our young men improve their skills, learn about the positive benefits of golf, and play this great sport for the rest of their lives!

Sincerely

Tom Isaak, Christian Da Luz, Bill Davis, Jess Wilson, Tom Graciano