

# on the GREEN

A freshman-heavy team experiences a quick season.

With a varsity team consisting of only four members, the boys golf squad had no choice but to be a tight-knit group. They sought established leadership with the inclusion of a fourth-year senior and third-year junior, but half of their team was compromised of new players: two freshmen. The junior varsity team also had three of their own freshmen, making the program very young in terms of the standard. But varsity's youngster duo of **Hayden Torrey '25** and **William Bartlett '25** continuously rolled with the ups and downs of the season. Torrey talks about pressure felt during tryouts in the summer. The pressure for these freshmen was on, but they all developed a friendship throughout their time together, as

**Nathaniel DeMarchi '22** described. **Mr. Scott Blatnick** gave great advice and created a great atmosphere throughout the year, encouraging a team environment and providing a space for the freshmen to grow. Bartlett reiterates that the season did not end how he wanted it to, but the experience was a developmental one for all players involved. It is rare to have a varsity team composed of nearly all freshmen, but the team found guidance in Mr. Scott Blatnick, DeMarchi, and returning junior **Gavin Castonguay '23**. The group performed well overall, and varsity has a bright future ahead of them with their gang of young, returning players.

story by: avery hamel



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## ALL lined up

Strategic initiative proves important on the green.

Due to the expedited season for boys golf, the players must find their own times to put in work on the course outside of practice. Freshman **William Bartlett '25** explains how they have "three to four practices a week," although he tries to "[practice] every day" in order to stay fresh. Bartlett enjoys "playing" to keep his body and mind prepared, and also frequently "[goes] to the driving range" to practice his long shots. Bartlett's experience on this team was a positive one, and the boys golf coach, **Mr. Scott Blatnick** contributed to this. "I am grateful to have him as a coach," Bartlett explained, "he was a good leader and helped to support us all season." The freshman player is "looking forward to coming back next year and doing it all again" with the support of Mr. Blatnick and his teammates.



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**Let's take a look.** With the golf tryouts starting over the summer and their first tournament being in late July, **Nathaniel DeMarchi '22** and his team have to practice early: "we have probably two or three practices before our first tournament, just so the coach can give us information." Not only does Coach Blatnick help them with their strength of play, but with their studies. DeMarchi said, "He really pushes your academics as well just to keep on top of everything, and he is a great motivational speaker." **Ready, set, swing.** Aiming for the fairway, **William Bartlett '25** puts time and effort into the game. He said, "we obviously have the season and practices, but I try to go and practice [on my own] as much as I can." Bartlett also expresses that Coach Blatnick's leadership skills allowed the team to pull through the wins and losses: "I am grateful to have him as a coach, he definitely was a good leader and helped support us."

**Motivating factor.** Consulting with his coach, **Mr. Scott Blatnick**, **Gavin Castonguay '23** takes feedback about his drive. Castonguay appreciates Mr. Blatnick's help and coaching style, saying that "no matter if we're inside the classroom or out of the classroom [he] just gives great advice," which displays Blatnick's dedication to improving his players as people in general. Blatnick's leadership has been key to team success throughout this season. **Time to celebrate.** After a fun day of competition, **Caden East '22** celebrates with his team. East explains the difficulties of golf, saying, "the best way [to practice] really is just playing [a match] because there are so many aspects of golf," with there being many ways of practicing." Still, the sport is a mental game first and foremost: "if you are not in the mode [while playing], you can get in your own head," East said.



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**Practice is key.** Working on completing his round, **Nathaniel DeMarchi '22** watches his ball across the green. The season's shortness is a large factor in practice, as Demarchi said "Our first tournament is the third week of July... but I like to get us back into the groove... as soon as I can." Over this short time, though, the team practiced and became close.

**Season prep.** When tryouts come around, students can still be unprepared to perform. **Hayden Torrey '25** felt the same when trying to practice for this year's tryouts: "Tryouts started just before school... I tried my best [to prepare]," he said. Torrey made varsity though, competing in all tournaments along with his varsity teammates.



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 "I just tried to clear out ALL THE PRESSURE" says freshman **Hayden Torrey**. "I did not need to make varsity as a freshman."
 

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