

Riehle makes it three in a row

By Kyle LoJacono

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Four days after winning her third straight individual district championship, Saddlebrook Prep senior Lauren Riehle qualified for the 1A state girls golf tournament by carding a 5-over 77 at regionals on Oct. 24.

Riehle's 77 was the low round of the day, giving her the individual regional title and sending her to the 1A state meet for the third consecutive year.

"It wasn't my best day," Riehle said. "I had a really bad front nine, but it's kind of hard to be mad with the lowest round at regionals."

Fellow Spartan Nina Hwang, a senior, nearly joined Riehle in qualifying for states by shooting an 82, but Bushnell South Sumter's Micah Adams posted an 80 late in



Saddlebrook Prep senior Lauren Riehle qualified for the 1A state girls golf tournament for the third straight year after shooting a 5-over 77 at regionals. (File photo)

the day to post the second-lowest score at the event.

Riehle is the only area player, boy or girl, from Pasco to qualify for states. In addition, no local county team advanced past regionals.

Only the top-two teams and top-two golfers not on an advancing team move on to states.

Academy at the Lakes senior Ellen Crowley, who shot a 92, tied for eighth place. Bishop McLaughlin senior Soencer Valdestino carded a 93 to take 10th.

As for the boys, Saddlebrook Prep missed out on a trip to states by one stroke for the second time in three years. The Spartans finished with a 325, just behind Crystal River.

Senior Tom Ng led the way for Saddlebrook Prep by shooting a 7-over 79, while teammate Michael Richards carded an 80.

The 1A girls state meet is at Harbor Bills Country Club in Lady Lake on Nov. 1-2.



Eishun Yoshida's goal against the University of Tampa gives the Lions a berth in the Sunshine State Conference tournament. (Photo by Mike Carlson)

Yoshida keeps Lions alive

With the season on the line and deep into overtime, Saint Leo University (SLU) men's soccer player Eishun Yoshida came through with his second goal of the year to keep the season alive.

Yoshida found the left corner of the net in the 109th minute to beat Sunshine State Conference (SSC) rival the University of Tampa (UT) 1-0 on Oct. 26. The victory sends the Lions (9-5-0, 4-4 SSC) to the conference tournament and also eliminates the Spartans (3-10-2, 3-4-1 SSC) from postseason play.

SLU got initial pressure in front of the UT net on the game-winning opportunity, but defenders deflected away a shot attempt. The ball bounced toward Yoshida, who buried a shot from 15-yards out that got past the Spartans' keeper.

The Lions closed out the regular season with back-to-back 1-0 wins in double overtime to beat SSC rivals Florida Tech University and UT.

SLU goalkeeper McKenzie Scott stopped all seven Spartans' shots on goal to record his ninth win and fourth shutout of the season.

The Lions played against Barry University on Nov. 1, but results were not available by press time.

—Kyle LoJacono

Gaither's Stanger advances to states

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Jimmy Stanger wasn't able to sleep much in the days leading up to regionals, but the Gaither junior golfer said that all changed the night before the tournament.

"I'd been staying up all night thinking about regionals," Stanger said. "Just thinking about what I was going to do and then the night before I was asleep by about 8:30. I don't know if that helped, but it couldn't have hurt."

Stanger went out and carded a 1-under 71 with five birdies to finish in third place, giving him a berth in the 2A state meet for the first time in his high school career. He was two strokes off the pace of Ridge Community's Sam Horsfield, who shot the

low round of the tournament.

Stanger, who won the Class 2A-District 9 individual championship the week before, said it was nice to have a good round in regionals considering how close he was to advancing last year. He shot a 75 to finish fifth last year, two strokes away from a state berth.

"And my team was two shots away from making states, so it was kind of like if I'd been two strokes better we would have still been playing," Stanger said. "I've thought a lot about how close we were last year."

Gaither advanced as a team to regionals, but did not qualify for states.

"That was disappointing because I love playing with my teammates," Stanger said. "I'm home schooled, so playing with my team is really something I look forward to."



Gaither junior Jimmy Stanger qualified individually for the 2A state meet by shooting a 1-under 71 at regionals. (File photo)

I wish they were coming with me to states."

Only the top-two teams and top-two golfers not on an advancing team move on to states. No other area player or team in Hillsborough County qualified for the final.

The 2A boys state tournament is at Mission Inn Resort and Club near Orlando on Nov. 1-2.

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