

By Tim Linscott

Managing Editor

The 2013 girls golf season has started for Perkins County with a solid test for the team at the Bayard Invite on Aug. 29.

The team finished in third place with a score of 504. Kimball won the meet with a 461 team score while Bridgeport was second (462).



Head Coach Troy Kemling was pleased with his team's overall performance and knows there are still a few adjustments to be made by the end of the season.

"Bayard revealed areas that we have improved on from last season and also weaknesses," Kemling said. "Overall, I was pleased with how the girls chipped the ball once they made it near the green. Many of them were able to give themselves an honest chance to make that first putt after the chip."

An area to improve upon, according to Kemling, is ball striking. Mechanics in his players' swing may make a difference in future meets.

"An area that we must get better on is our ball striking—making good contact with the face of the club consistently," Kemling said. "The Bayard course has thick rough which really penalizes a topped shot (not much roll). I saw several cases of taking the club too far back in the backswing which contributed to this."

Leading Perkins County was Amanda Reichert with a 116 on the day, finishing ninth overall.

"This is one of her best showings and a great way to begin her season," Kemling said. Her short game showed the most improvement from last year which shaved off many strokes off her card. Putting was better, but can still be improved as she had 44 total putts for the day. Amanda is a much more confident golfer this season, it showed up on the course."

Carra Johnson ended the day with a 120, shooting a 63 on the front nine and a 57 on the back nine, just missing the top 10.

"Carra statistically putted the best of all the girls with 36 total putts. On those large greens that is actually good. Carra will need to improve on the consistency of her ball striking," Kemling said. "Off the tee and approach shots. I think with more time and practice that will come and I would expect her scores to edge lower."

Hailey Sletten finished the day with a 128 overall while Alexis Schmidt shot a 140 and Maria Lopez a 175.

The Bayard course has thick rough and provides little roll for the ball.

"Bayard also has the largest greens we play on which puts a premium on getting that chip close to the hole. You can find yourself with 150 foot putts on many of the greens which leads to more putts," Kemling said.