

Rochester Post (MI)

Keeping the Highlanders on top Rochester Adams golf aims to stay atop division for long time coming

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ROCHESTER - When it comes to prep **golf**, the name **Rochester Adams** is synonymous with consistency. In its 31 years of **golf**, the Highlanders have qualified for the state finals 24 times. And if it's up to seniors Matt Brady and Matt Werner, the program's propensity for success will stay intact long after the twosome takes their finals swings of the year. "In the short term, our goal is to get to states," Brady said March 24 during practice.

"In the long term, we care a lot about the program. We want to see the younger guys - the freshmen - play well so that when we're gone they can take up the mantle for us and continue the success that **Rochester Adams** has had in the past." "**Adams** is a pretty strong name in the **golf** world, so hopefully, we can keep that reputation through those guys," Werner added.

Brady and Werner did their parts last season as juniors. The Highlanders finished tied for seventh in Division 1 and won their second straight Oakland Activities Association Red Division.

Sophomore Ben Van Orman also returns from the lineup that competed in the state final.

With the return of the three veterans and an injection of talented underclassmen, the Highlanders are again dreaming of a final appearance.

"Every year, our goal is to be ready come middle of May," coach Dan Picot said referring to the start of the postseason. "Any success we have before that is great, but come (districts), that's when we want to be on our game." **Adams** will get plenty of tune-up matches in the competitive Red Division.

"Every team we play in the league is tough. Anyone can beat anyone, really," the coach said. "It's not our top goal (to win the division), but it's a steppingstone towards our goal, and that's always been key. If we're playing well, then the wins and the matches will take care of themselves." Picot said that it's the team's depth that will keep it in contention this time around.

"If you look one through 10 on our depth chart, anyone one of those 10 kids could probably end up playing in the state tournament when it comes time," he said. "That's our biggest strength. They compete in practice, and **golf** is their No. 1 sport." Brady and Werner are expected to battle for the No. 1 spot on the team and look forward to pushing each other to improve.

Last season, Werner averaged 39 for nine holes and 81 for 18. Brady averaged 38.5 for nine holes and 78.3 for 18. He also finished eighth in the state individually and has hopes of taking the top prize as a senior.

"I'm going to do my best and try and work my hardest so that at least no one can outwork me," Brady said. "After that, if everything else fails, at least I tried my best." Catch the Highlanders in the Red Division tournament at 1 p.m. April 15 at Boulder Pointe **Golf** Club in Oxford.

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Caption:Photo by Deb Jacques **Rochester Adams** seniors Matt Brady, left, and Matt Werner look to lead the Highlanders back to the state finals this season. Photo by Deb Jacques **Adams** sophomore Ben Van Orman watches his shot March 29 during practice.

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