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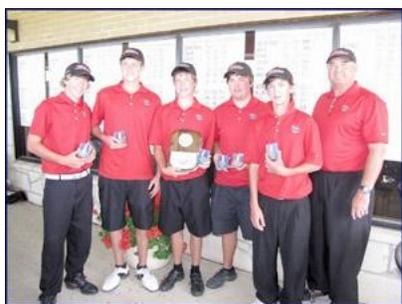
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Ranger golf takes district title



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The Vista Ridge golf team shows off its district title plaque after beating Westwood and qualifying for regionals. Pictured (from left) Cody Wing, Chad Cobian, Blake Stasiunas, Jason Pearce, George Barber and coach P.C. Edwards.

Posted Thursday, April 30, 2009 6:00 pm

by Jenn Rains, Hill Country News

Vista Ridge barely misses out on state in first year at 5A

Making the transition from 4A to 5A can be intimidating for some. The kids are bigger, the teams are stronger and the level of play is harder. For many of the Vista Ridge boys' teams, the transition created some struggles. But, the boys' golf team wasn't fazed and they proved it by winning the district title and finishing the season third at regionals.

"We made the transition pretty easy and I think we surprised a lot of people," said Vista Ridge coach P.C. Edwards. "The boys weren't intimidated about it."

To prepare for the 16-5A tournament, the team spent their season playing some of the best teams in the state. Though they placed in the top five in some of the tournaments, they didn't get a win - experience was the key though.

"We got great experience, which was the whole purpose and got comfortable playing against the big boys of 5A," Edwards said of the tournaments where they played against some of the top 10 teams in the state. "It didn't look like we had that great of a season, but the fields we were playing in were really strong."

Once they got to the district tournament, though, the Rangers turned up the heat, tying for first with Westwood after the first round of play. During the front nine of the second round, Vista Ridge had fallen behind, but on the final nine holes, the Rangers shot nine under par to take the district title.

"The last nine holes we really turned it on," said Edwards.

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George Barber led the team on the back nine, shooting a 32, to finish with a 70 for the day. Jason Pearce, who was second overall in district, birdied three of the last four holes to finish at 73 on the day. Blake Stasiunas also shot a 34 on the back nine and finished third overall in district.

The Rangers took their power to the regional tournament, where they came up just shy of moving on to state.

Vista Ridge finished third at regionals behind The Woodlands and Lufkin, just three shots out of second place. The top two teams from regionals advance to state.

"It was a heartbreaker. It came down to the final hole," Edwards said. "We knew it was pretty close and we just came up a little short. We were disappointed that we didn't make it to state because we felt like we had that opportunity to win the second spot."

The Rangers have all but one player returning in the fall and hope to make it back to regionals - or further - next season.

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