



**Wadsworth's Andrew Weyand is this year's boys golf MVP.**

**Gazette MVP: Wadsworth's Andrew Weyand's work ethic made him one of county's top players**

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Wadsworth senior Andrew Weyand always brings a blue-collar work ethic to the golf course.

That mentality led Weyand to incremental gains every season throughout his high school career after not playing a competitive round of golf prior to trying out for the Grizzlies his freshman year.

Those gains erupted this year, when Weyand led Medina County with a 38.3 nine-hole average and guided the Grizzlies to their first district appearance since 2004 and a runner-up finish in the Suburban League National Conference.

“Each of the past three summers since he came out for the golf program as a freshman, he’s worked harder than anybody,” Wadsworth coach Steve Ferris said. “It’s that work in the summer that paid off not just for himself but for us as a team, collectively.”

“He led the others and when they saw what he was doing, they decided we better get on this train. That train led us to the district tournament and a shot at the state tournament.”

The hard work that goes into being successful at golf is largely why Weyand, the Gazette MVP, has grown to love the game so much.

“It’s hard,” Weyand said of golf. “A lot of other sports, your success can come from a game plan or your teammates taking a bigger role in the team. In golf, there’s the team aspect, but it’s really just you, the ball and the course. There’s nowhere to hide.”

Weyand considers himself a self-taught golfer with a lot of guidance from his father Mike Weyand and grandfather Dave Poetter, the former Highland football and baseball coach. That carried him pretty far, but this summer he took lessons from Dan Dauk at the Windmill Golf Center, which helped him lower his average by 1.5 strokes per nine holes.

"I hadn't had any lessons, and I wasn't a country club kid like a lot of kids," Weyand said. "The big thing with (the lessons) was it added a lot of consistency and confidence in my golf swing, which is really important if you're going to succeed."

In addition to Weyand's lessons, he also was heavily involved in the summer golf circuit, where he posted some strong results.

"Going into this season, I had some success with some tournaments I played in over the summer," Weyand said. "That really proved to myself that I had what it took to be at the top of the league and the top of Medina County."

To see the fruits of his labor, along with that of his teammates, has been a very rewarding process for Weyand.

"This season was a culmination of the past three seasons," he said. "I think our team did a lot of good things this year, and to see the results of all the hard work we put in was really cool."

With seven seniors among Wadsworth's top nine golfers, Weyand and his classmates knew this season had the potential to be something special. In many ways, the Grizzlies delivered on that promise in restoring respect and acknowledgement to the golf program.

Wadsworth was in the running for the SL National championship until the final tournament and took second place at the J.E. Good Park Division I Sectional to reach the Pine Hills District, where it placed 10th.

"A huge part of it is me and my teammates wanting to leave a legacy," Weyand said. "It set a great example for years to come, and I think it made other programs respect us a little bit more, as well."

Weyand posted the best 18-hole round in Medina County this season, shooting an even-par 71 at Shale Creek at the Walker Jones Classic to lead Wadsworth to a fifth-place finish at the event that was stacked with four future D-I state-qualifying teams.

The son of two Medina teachers, Julie and Mike, Weyand has an excellent head for the game and an ability to recall courses and holes.

"The best part of his game is what's between his ears," Ferris said. "He was always prepared and knew the courses we were playing. He had the memory bank of playing this course two years ago or last summer and always had an idea of how to attack the course."

Weyand posted a 3-under 32 at Chippewa on senior night to help the Grizzlies beat North Royalton 146-157 and tie the school record for the team's lowest nine-hole round.

"My favorite memory of the season was senior night, when I played with one of my best friends (Logan Skidmore) and we both shot career lows," he said. "That was able to contribute to us tying the school record with a 146. It was just a special day and something I'll always remember."

This season was a special one for Weyand and the Grizzlies, who returned to prominence behind their leader, as well as fellow seniors Jason Moore, Brian Myers and Austin Miller and sophomore Landon Blizzard.

Not a bad result for Weyand, who tried out for the golf team as a freshman on a whim.

"I just wanted to play golf because it was something different and I liked to compete," he said. "Eventually it transitioned into one of the biggest passions of mine and something that's a big important part of my life."