

Season Preview

Girls Got 25 to Watch

KSHSAACovered

25 GIRLS GOLFERS TO WATCH IN 2021

CLAIRE BERQUIST, FREE STATE

One of two state placers for the Firebirds, Berquist made a significant jump between her freshman and sophomore years to help Free State post a fourth-place finish at last year's Class 6A state tournament. After tying for 42nd at state as a freshman in 2019, Berquist vaulted all the way into the top 10 as a sophomore, finishing seventh with a two-day total of 165. Her rounds of 81 and 84 at state were her best two performances of the season and her total was 33 shots better than her state showing as a freshman.



Claire Berquist



Avery Blasi

AVERY BLASI, PRATT

Blasi had a solid freshman season for the Greenbacks, capping it with a tie for 12th at the Class 4A championship. It was the highest finish by a freshman. After posting a first-round 98 in cold, breezy conditions, Blasi improved 13 shots in the second round to claim an individual medal. She finished second for the Greenbacks at the nine-hole Hoisington Invitational, then posted season lows with 81s in the 18-hole Buhler and Cheney tournaments.

KARLIE CHIPMAN, FORT SCOTT

A three-time state qualifier, Chipman posted her second straight top-10 finish at last year's Class 4A state tournament. After tying for 48th as a freshman in 2018, Chipman rocketed up to seventh place as a sophomore in 2019 with a 177. Last year, she improved by three shots and one place, taking sixth with a 174. She also was a regional champion last year.



Karlie Chipman

KAITLYN CROUGH, WASHBURN RURAL



Kaitlyn Crough

Crough will enter her senior season especially hungry after a wrist injury prematurely cut short her junior season. Coming off a third-place showing at the Centennial League meet and runner-up finish at the City Meet, Crough hurt her wrist just prior to regionals, costing her a shot at a third straight Class 6A state medal. Crough finished tied for 13th at state as a freshman and then tied for 14th as a sophomore in 2019. She was the city champion and league runner-up as a sophomore and fifth at league as a freshman, and captured the Topeka City Junior Championship this summer.

HILLARY CURRIER, BLUE VALLEY SOUTHWEST

The Eastern Kansas League runner-up a year ago to three-time Class 6A and EKL champion Julia Misemer, Currier earned her second straight state medal at the Class 5A state tournament. She tied for 16th last year as a sophomore after taking 13th at the 5A state tournament as a freshman. Currier owns a career scoring average of 80.3 and twice has shot 74, including at last year's EKL Championships. Currier is already off to a strong start, tying for second at the season-opening Olathe West Invitational with a 76.



Hillary Currier



Lois Deeter

LOIS DEETER, SEAMAN

Deeter burst onto the scene as a freshman in 2019, capturing the Centennial League championship. She was a regional runner-up as well and wound up taking sixth at the Class 5A state tournament after finishing in a three-way tie for fifth at 168. A first-team All-League, All-City and All-Class 5A pick as a freshman, Deeter opted not to play high school golf last year as a sophomore but is back out as a junior.

ALEXA GARRETT, KAPAUN MOUNT CARMEL

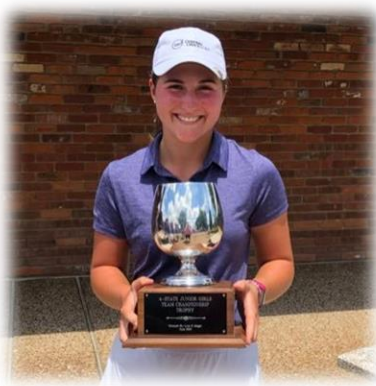
Garrett proved her strong freshman season was no fluke, winning twice as a sophomore and earning top-10 finishes in all seven tournaments she played. The 2019 Wichita City League champion led Kapaun to its eighth state girls golf title, firing a 74 in Class 5A's opening round at Salina Municipal en route to a 154 total. Her ninth-place finish followed an eighth at state in 2019, and capped a season in which she posted a 79.9 scoring average.

ELIZABETH GRANT, ST. JAMES ACADEMY

Since her freshman year, Grant has been on the brink of capturing the Class 5A state title, never finishing lower than sixth at the state meet. She was sixth as a freshman before moving up two spots to fourth as a sophomore in 2019. Last year as a junior, Grant jumped two more places to finish runner-up to Mill Valley's Libby Green. Grant was four shots behind Green after the first day, but show a 72 in the second round to close the gap, falling two shots shy of her first state title. She also took third at the Eastern Kansas League Championship meet last year.



Elizabeth Grant



Libby Green

LIBBY GREEN, MILL VALLEY

A two-time, top-five state placer in Class 6A as a freshman and sophomore, Green emerged from last year's Class 5A state tournament as the state champion. She blistered the course to a 69 in the opening round and followed it up with a 74 on the second day to hold off St. James Academy's Elizabeth Grant by two shots for the title, finishing at 143. In the three rounds of the Sunflower League meet, Green won two and was runner-up in the third to claim the league title. Green tied for fifth at the 6A state meet as a sophomore and finished third in Class 6A as a freshman, taking second at regionals all three years.

MCKENZIE KELSO, OLATHE NORTHWEST

Safe to say, Kelso had a pretty solid freshman season for the Ravens, helping them to a third-place finish at the Class 6A state tournament. Shooting in the 80s at all but one of Northwest's meets throughout the season, Kelso earned a state medal in her first state-tournament appearance, finishing tied for 15th with a two-day total of 171.



McKenzie Kelso

CHANEY LITTELL, WINFIELD

Littell, a senior, tied for 10th in Class 4A last fall – her second top-10 state finish in as many seasons – as the Vikings edged Wamego by six shots for the team championship in Emporia. With departed senior Elly Bertholf moving on to play at Newman University, Littell returns as Winfield’s top player. She earned second-team all-state honors from the Kansas Golf Coaches Association, and posted a low round of 85 last season at the Andover Invitational.



Chaney Littell



Corbyn Marquess

CORBYN MARQUESS, PLAINVILLE

The Plainville junior already has two top-five finishes at the Class 3-2-1A state tournament to her credit. She tied for fifth at state as a freshman and then took second last year, finishing with a two-day score of 165 to finish seven shots behind Colby’s Anna Starbuck. She opened with an 81 for the first round of state and followed it up with an 84. Marquess was also runner-up at the regional, posting a 92 at Colby’s Meadow Lake Golf Course. This summer, she tied incoming Kapaun freshman Meg Tilma for low honors at the prestigious Sunflower Championship at 5-under 135, falling in a playoff to Meg Tilma.

TALEIA MCCRAE, HAYS

A three-time state placer, McCrae will look to lead the Indians to their 16th consecutive state tournament appearance. McCrae showed no ill-effects from knee surgery for a torn ACL and MCL, opening last season by winning the Hays High Invitational at Smoky Hill Country Club. McCrae also won the Great Bend Invitational and tied for first at Dodge City. She finished in the top five of every regular season tournament and was named 2020 Western Athletic Conference Player of the Year. She led Hays to a fourth-place finish at last year’s Class 5A state tournament, taking 18th.



Taleia McCrae

KIRBY MCKEE, WAMEGO



Kirby McKee

One half of Wamego’s standout junior tandem that helped the Red Raiders to six tournament titles in 2020, McKee already is a two-time state placer in her career. She finished tied for 20th at the Class 4A state meet as a freshman in 2019 before jumping into the top 10 last year when she tied for eighth along with teammate Ashten Pierson. McKee helped lead Wamego to a runner-up finish at the state meet both years with the Red Raiders coming up just six shots short of a state title last year.

JULIA MISEMER, BLUE VALLEY WEST

History awaits. In winning the Class 6A individual title last year with a five-shot victory over Shawnee Mission East's Tess Roman, Misemer became just the sixth girl golfer in state history to win three state championships and the first since Aquinas' Gianna Misenhelter from 2007-09. Only one golfer in state history has ever completed the career sweep – Columbus' Jill Simpson in Class 4A from 1992-95. A three-time Eastern Kansas League and winner of all but one of her high school tournaments, Misemer has a chance to go down as arguably the best high school girl golfer in state history. After winning her first two Class 6A state titles in playoffs, Misemer was tied with Roman after the first day of last year's state tournament before shooting a 1-under 70 in the final round to win by five. The owner of multiple Division I offers, Misemer owns a 71.8 career scoring average with a best round of 64 as a sophomore at the EKL Championships.



Julia Misemer



McLain Neal

MCLAIN NEAL, SM SOUTH

Perhaps no golfer in the state has progressed more than Neal has during her career. As a freshman, Neal could barely break 100 and finished a distant 33rd in her Class 6A regional. She became a state qualifier as a sophomore, tying for 30th at the Class 6A state tournament with a two-day total of 192. Last year, however, it was an entirely different Neal that hit the course. Not only did she break 90 in every meet, she broke 80 five times and posted a career-best round of 66 at the Shawnee Mission South Invitational. At the state tournament, shot an opening-round 77 and followed with a 75 to finish third at 152, eight shots out of first and three behind second. She got her senior season off to a bang, winning the Olathe West Invitational by three shots with a 73.

ZOE NORTON, SALINA SOUTH

Norton enters her final campaign on the heels of an impressive junior season for the Cougars. She was Salina South's top performer in six of 10 tournaments, winning the Salina Central Invitational and posting five other top-five finishes. She took second in the Ark Valley-Chisholm Trail Division I tournament after winning it as a sophomore. Norton tied for 14th in Class 5A last season, her best finish in three state appearances.



Zoe Norton



Ashten Pierson

ASHTEN PIERSON, WAMEGO

A multi-sport athlete for Wamego, Pierson has certainly made her mark on the golf course, serving as a contributor on each of Wamego’s Class 4A state runner-up teams the past two seasons. After placing 26th at state as a freshman in 2019, Pierson earned her first state medal last year as a sophomore, tying teammate Kirby McKee for eighth at the state meet, each finishing with two-day totals of 181.

TESS ROMAN, SHAWNEE MISSION EAST

The lone underclassman on Shawnee Mission East’s dominant Class 6A state championship team a year ago, Roman played the leading role at last year’s state tournament. One of only three golfers to break 80 on the first day, Roman posted a 74 and was tied for the tournament lead with two-time defending champion Julia Misemer of Blue Valley West. With nine holes to play, Roman held a one-shot lead on Misemer before seeing her Jaguar rival shoot a 33 on the back nine, pulling away on the final three holes. Roman finished runner-up by five shots with a 149, helping the Lancers to a whopping 62-stroke win in the team race. Roman has a history of rising to the occasion at the state tournament, taking seventh as a sophomore and sixth as a freshman, twice finishing as East’s low score.



Tess Roman

KEIRA RONSICK, BISHOP CARROLL

Ronsick has been a steady, consistent player in her first two seasons, both of which ended in top-15 individual finishes in Class 5A. She tied for 15th in the 2019 championship at Emporia, then moved up a spot last season at Salina Municipal with rounds of 80 and 79. She shot in the 80s in all of Carroll’s 18-hole regular-season tournaments last year, and posted a 39 to earn medalist honors in a nine-hole dual against Kapaun .



Keira Ronsick



Avery Scott

AVERY SCOTT, WASHBURN RURAL

After playing mostly out of the No. 6 position as a freshman, helping Rural to a fourth-place finish at the 2019 6A state tournament, Scott emerged as one of the Junior Blues’ top golfers a year ago. She lowered her stroke average by double digits, posting a season-best 78 at the 6A state preview at Hesston, taking second. She backed it up by tying for ninth at the state tournament and opened this season with a tie for second at the Olathe West Invitational with a career-best 76.



Ali Scripsick

ALI SCRIPSICK, PITTSBURG COLGAN

Scripsick led Pittsburg Colgan to the best season in the program's brief history, leading the Panthers to their first Class 3-2-1A state championship. After taking 28th at state in 2019 as a freshman, Scripsick had a big sophomore season. She captured a regional title by three shots and then finished third at the state tournament, shooting a two-day total of 172 to finish 14 shots out of first and seven out of second. Scripsick also won four tournaments during the regular season.

ANNA STARBUCK, COLBY

Starbuck quickly made a name for herself last year as a freshman. She won the Class 3-2-1A state tournament by seven strokes at Cherry Oaks Golf Course in Cheney, carding a two-day total of 158. Starbuck helped the Eagles take second place as a team at state for the second straight year. She claimed a regional title at Colby's Meadow Lake Golf Course, winning by eight strokes with an 84 to help Colby also take the team regional title.



Anna Starbuck



Kate Tilma

KATE TILMA, KAPAUN

A senior this season, Tilma sat out the 2020 high school season after spending her first two years at Wichita Classical. At Classical, she competed for the boys' team both seasons and placed sixth in the 2019 Class 1A state championship. The daughter of former Big Eight Conference champion Cathy (Stevens Tilma) and granddaughter of legendary Kansas golfer Johnny Stevens, Tilma has more than made a name for herself on the summer circuit. In 2020, she became the first female in state history to capture both the Kansas Women's Amateur and Kansas Junior Amateur titles in the same year.

MEG TILMA, KAPAUN

A freshman and younger sister of senior Kate Tilma, Meg will be an impact performer for the Crusaders this season. She tied for low junior honors at this summer's Kansas Women's Amateur and won the Sunflower Girls Championship against a field of top juniors from across the state. The daughter of former Big Eight champion Cathy (Stevens) Tilma and granddaughter of Kansas legend Johnny Stevens, Tilma tied for eighth overall at this year's Kansas Women's Amateur.



Meg Tilma