

Cats fourth; Landers leads pack in golf

Written by Don Wallace
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FORT WORTH — After a blustery day on the golf course Monday, Sulphur Springs is in fourth place within striking distance of the leaders.

Garrett Landers had one of his best rounds under terrible playing conditions at Waterchase Golf Club. Landers leads not only the Sulphur Springs team with his first round two under 70, but the entire Region II- Class 4A UIL field.

Other scores for the Wildcats include: Brody Blackmon, 78; Cole Farmer, 87; Mason Maeker, 94 and Alex Motes, 95.

Highland Park had a first round 311 to bolt into first place. The Legacy Red team is at 312 for second place; holding third place is Texas High with a 322. Sulphur Springs is at 329 in fourth place after one of two rounds.

Action continues today with the Wildcats teeing off at 10:10 a.m. on the 7,150-yard course.

“Nobody on the golf course Monday wanted to be there. I think the chill factor was around freezing,” said Ross Funk, Sulphur Springs head boys golf coach. “Usually on that course it is the southerly wind, but the wind yesterday was from the northwest. It was cold and it changed the way the course played.”

The coach said he expects scores to be lower for all teams today. On Monday golfers had to deal with wind gusts up to 35-40 mph.

Funk said the key to the Wildcats finishing the first round in fourth place from the field of 12-team field was the mental approach of the team.

“We were prepared and we just dealt with the conditions,” Funk said. “It was the same for everyone, we just accepted it and rose to the occasion. We heard the forecast, we knew what to expect. We were in the right mindset. I knew if we could stay mental strong, we would compete. We were very patient.”

Funk said he was not surprised by Landers turning in a 70 on the first round in less than ideal conditions.

“Garrett got off to a great start, he was three under par after nine,” Funk said. “He had chances to pick up some other strokes. But on the second nine, the course is really exposed and it was very windy. He had a great round.”

“Garrett has a methodical game and it served him well Monday,” Funk said. “He is a patient, steady player. He’s not very emotional, he just took advantage of what he was able to do well.”

Funk said, “We are in the battle team wise just 18 strokes behind the leader with a round left. The weather is supposed to be much-improved today. We might even get to wear shorts if it warms up enough.”

Funk added, “It’s down now to a match-play situation. We want to beat the group we are playing with. That’s the focus of our guys. Our goal is to finish in the top three.”