

YOUNG OBSERVER

Aurora Golfer Goes to State Competition

The junior is ACC's second Lady Charger to compete at IHSA's state competition.



(Photos/ Aurora Central Catholic Golf Team) Michelle Beggs poses in this October 2020 photo.

AURORA—Aurora Central Catholic High School golfer Michelle Beggs '23 made school history when she placed 5th overall in the 2021 IHSA Sectional tournament, earning her a spot at the IHSA State Finals competition in Decatur.

Although Beggs got off to a rough start in the sectional tournament, with five-over in the first two holes, she didn't let that shake her.

As one viewer at the game put it, "she must have knowingly or unknowingly decided that resiliency was key." Beggs finished the remaining 16 holes with a final score of two-over-par.

The successful comeback was something viewers had seen from Beggs before, going back to a game her freshman year when she had a comeback in the last nine holes of the Aurora City Championship in 2018. She ended with the best-ever Lady Charger score by a freshman at that time.

Michelle Beggs competed at the IHSA State competition in Decatur Oct. 8-9, finishing 39th out of 112 competitors and placing in the state's top 40.



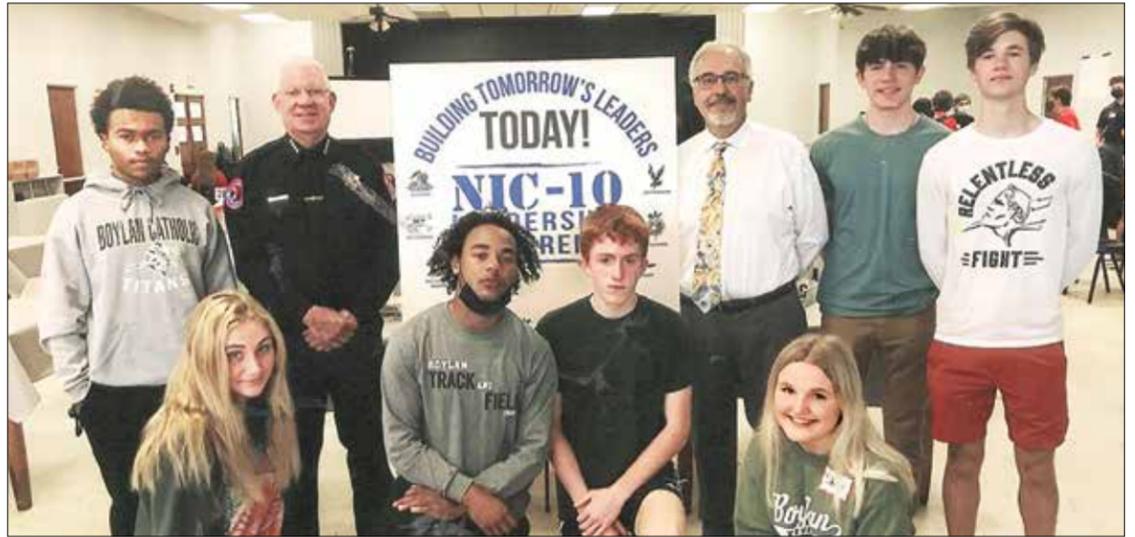
Michelle Beggs hits her approach shot during the 2021 IHSA Sectional Tournament.

Homecoming Royalty Chosen for 2021

WOODSTOCK—Marian Central Catholic High School students Frank Lavin and Maddison Shepard were voted this year's homecoming king and queen.



(Photo/ Marian Central Catholic High School)



(Photo provided)

Participants and leaders pose together at the Northern Illinois Conference Leadership Conference. In the top row, from left, are Mekhi Glover, Sheriff Gary Caruana, Michael Kagan, Joe Thomas and Seth Gomel. In the bottom row, from left, are Katie Trenhaile, Donovan Hanserd, Aidan Wedwick and Skylar Johnson.

Leaders on and off the field

NIC-10 athletes train in leadership skills

On Sept. 16, 93 athletes from six area high schools took a break from practicing their swings, throws and strokes and chose to practice their leadership skills instead.

That day was the Northern Illinois Conference (NIC-10) Leadership Conference, held at the Verdi Club in Rockford. Athletes from Boylan Central Catholic, Auburn, East, Jefferson, Guilford, and Hononegah high schools attended.

The conference is part of the Red Ribbon Program, which came to All Saints Academy this year under the sponsorship of Michael Kagan, the school's principal. Kagan also took the lead in implementing this year's conference.

The presenter was Craig Hillier, a speaker for Winning Edge Seminars in Minnesota.

Four major goals of the conference included:

- Developing a sharing relationship between area schools and students;
- Helping students understand their role as leaders and the positive impact they can have;
- Learn effective strategies on how to



Boylan senior Seth Gomel gets firsthand experience with an interview.

become a leader; and

- Giving the students the power to be confident and respect themselves and others.

East High School's athletic director, Gary Griffin, said, "It gives our kids an opportunity to be together with all of the schools and get to know each other." Collaboration, setting aside rivalries and helping each other learn was the rule of the day for the student athletes.

Until, of course, they would meet again on the playing field.

Three Semifinalists to Compete for National Merit Scholarships



(Photos/ Marmion Academy)

Tyler Seuss



Jackson Wittenberg

DIOCESE—Three students — Tyler Seuss, Jackson Wittenberg and William Stotz — have been named semifinalists in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. Seuss and Wittenberg are seniors at Marmion Academy in Aurora and Stotz is a senior at Marian Central Catholic High School in Woodstock.

Author's note: A picture of William Stotz was not available.