

Prep boys golf: Webb, Madison Memorial triumph

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April 15, 2013 7:58 pm • [NICK SUNDERLAND-SAIED | nsunderlandersaied | 252-6170](#)

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Madison Memorial's Peter Webb tees off on the 10th hole Monday.

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Peter Webb and the Madison Memorial boys golf team finally got their season started at Monday's Edgewood Invitational, but there turned out to be a catch.

"I looked at the forecast this morning and I saw sun, so I was like, 'Oh. I don't need any rain gear or anything,'" the NCAA Division I Valparaiso recruit said. "And I regretted it. Once your hands get cold, you just lose all feeling and it makes it really difficult."

His play at Hawks Landing Golf Club told a different story.

Playing in constant downpours for nearly half of his round, Webb overcame the elements in impressive fashion to card a 3-over-par 75 and take medalist honors while leading the Spartans to the team championship.

Memorial — competing without No. 2 player Brett Oberg — finished atop the 20-team field with a score of 324, besting reigning WIAA Division 2 state champion Edgerton (332) by eight shots.

John Springer (75), Jake O’Loughlin (82) and Kellen Rice (88) rounded out the Spartans’ scoring.

Tournament director Andy Landenberger said he considered calling off play after steady rainfall hit the course a third of the way through the round, but ultimately decided it was best to finish the day out.

“These were probably (some) of the worst conditions I’ve ever seen a tournament played under,” Memorial coach Tim Byrne said. “However, with the weather that we’ve had so far this year, they decided to play through it. I think it was a good decision, no matter what the scores were, to get these kids on the course and get ’em playing.”

Webb got off to a blazing start — carding birdies on four of his first 14 holes to open up his round at 1 under and build a sizable advantage over playing partners Johnny Decker (77) of Edgewood, Verona’s Tyler Reinecke (78) and University of Wisconsin recruit Ben Skogen (80) of Onalaska.

“He was killing it,” said Decker, who finished in a second-place tie with Stoughton’s Henry Klondland. “He was making everything.”

That start proved to be key on the next hole when Webb’s drive was lost in a hazard and his ensuing drop found one of the course’s ponds.

But the senior overcame the quadruple bogey to par his final three holes and take any drama out of the finish.

“What stood out for me was his focus,” Byrne said. “He made excellent decisions out there around the course because when you’re in these types of conditions you have to make good decisions.”

Not to be lost in the Spartans’ victory was the performance of freshman O’Loughlin, whose 82 from the No. 5 position was 14 shots better than Bryce Danielson, Memorial’s No. 4 golfer.

Verona (333) placed third, followed by Onalaska (336) and defending Big Eight Conference champion Middleton (336).

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