



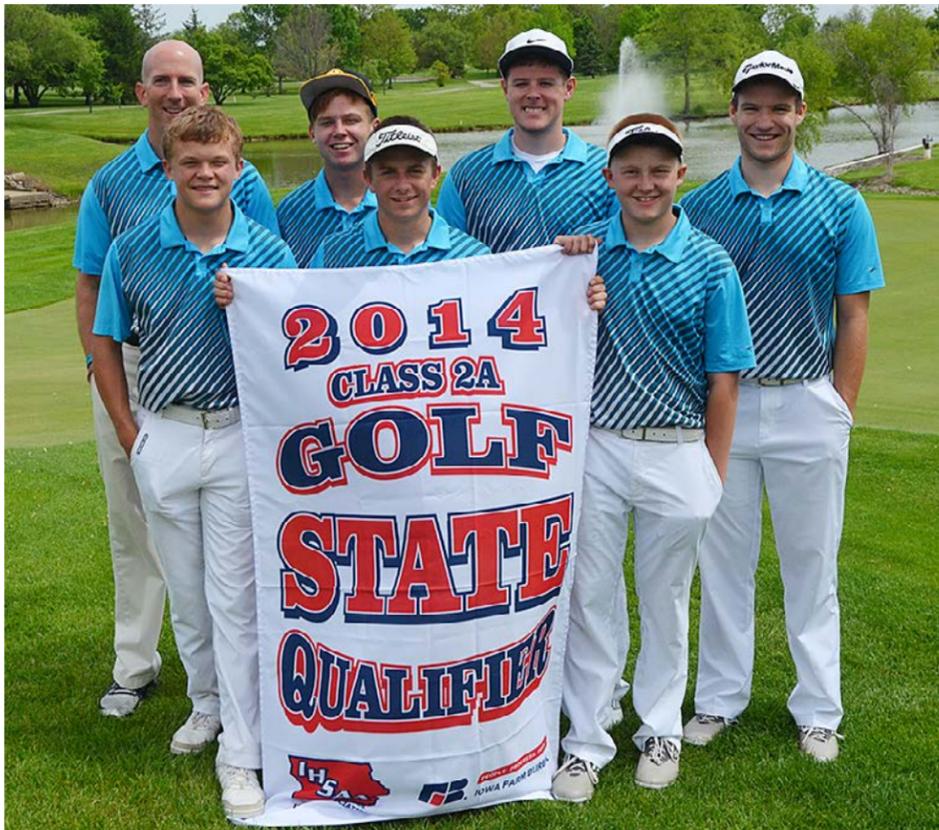
Wilton-Durant Advocate News

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Great Lake! New year. New result



Durant's Lake Koenig is shown above, accepting the meet medalist award from Wilton head coach Nick Dohrmann during district play at Pleasant Valley Golf Course in Iowa City May 22. Lake shot 73 and won medalist honors in a playoff. Below, members of the DHS qualifying state golf team include: Front from left, Lake Koenig, Conrad Hoover and Leo Callison; back row, head coach John Walsh, Jace Koenig, Alex Rouse and Von Glaser.
Photos by Derek Sawvell



The annual crowd had nice weather and a great 10-cent meal during the 52nd annual Jake Davies Smorgasbord in Wilton May 20. The line down Fourth Street can be seen above as hundreds gather awaiting to eat for a dime.
Photo by Kim Sloan

■ Durant's Lake Koenig wins district title in playoff; Cats qualify for Class 2A state meet

By Derek Sawvell
Managing Editor, Advocate News

At the Class 2A district golf meet in Iowa City May 23, Durant boys' head coach John Walsh found himself in a very familiar position. When the final scores were coming in, his Wildcats were battling for second place and a second consecutive state berth.

When Durant No. 3 golfer Lake Koenig made the trek back to the clubhouse to turn in his scorecard, Walsh found himself in another familiar position — a Koenig was tied atop the leaderboard and in a playoff for the district title.

Last season, Jace Koenig battled Wilton's Adam McNamara for the district title in Muscatine, losing on the first playoff hole.

This season, it was younger brother Lake who was tied for first place after turning in a round of 73 (35, 38). His stellar round meant two things: 1) Durant secured a trip to the Class 2A state golf tournament in Livermore May 30-31, with a team score of 322. (Mount Vernon won the meet with a score of 316.) 2) The Wildcats, specifically the Koenigs, had a chance at district redemption.

Mount Vernon's Connor Herrmann also shot 73. Herrmann and Lake Koenig began a playoff for district medalist on hole No. 10. Herrmann drove his ball under a tree but was able to hit his second shot to the green on the par 4. Lake was sitting in the center of the fairway and stuck his approach shot 15 feet from the pin. Herrmann's birdie putt went five feet past the hole and Koenig's missed by around two feet. After Herrmann missed his par putt, the stage was set for Lake to put an exclamation point on his day.

He made the par putt, clinching the district title. Typically a fast player, Lake realized that afternoon that patience is a virtue.

"I played very well today. Controlled. And I didn't get mad. I started on (hole) seven and started with a birdie. That made my mind think 'I'm going to shoot good today,'" said Lake. "I took my time with everything. I've never taken that much time before. It paid off."

He missed a four-foot putt on his 18th hole, which would have tied the school record for 18 (72) and nine (34) holes — a small blemish on an otherwise "perfect bluebird day," said Lake.

"Winning that playoff makes it 10 times better," Lake continued. "He's (Herrmann)



Durant sophomore Lake Koenig reads a putt during action in the district meet at Iowa City May 22. Koenig shot 73 to claim the district title while helping the Wildcats qualify for their second straight trip to the Class 2A state golf meet.

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the one I wanted to beat today. He's a really good player. I was not coming in expecting this. I played out of my mind."

Lake knew that this was a season of lasts. His brother Jace, a senior, is playing his final rounds of golf as a Wildcat. His coach John is leading his Durant team through a season for the final time. (Walsh has resigned from Durant to take a teaching position at West Branch next school year.)

"He was in a zone today," said Walsh of Lake. "He was two under after his first six holes and he was feeling good ... we were adding up the numbers thinking 'what does he need to come in with?' A 76 or 77 and we should be OK."

Lake left no doubt. With his solid play all season as a sophomore, he has solidified Durant's own version of the "big three," as

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