

# may the COURSE be with you

## BOYS GOLF ATHLETES NAVIGATE THE TECHNICALITIES OF THE GAME

Bogey, hazard, handicap, mulligans, and gimmes were terms used by the boys golf team every day. The athletes not only understood these terms, but also familiarized themselves with the rules, the tools, and the scoring system of golf.

While this was his first year on the team, **Ryan Moyer** (9) became acquainted with the basics of golf quickly throughout the season, including how to adapt to different environments.

“Every aspect [of golf] changes every time it’s played,” Moyer said. “Every hole is different, the wind always plays a part, and the incline or decline of the hill can impact every shot made.”

These fluctuating features of golf added a layer of pressure for senior **Matthew Long** as he competed.

“Golf is a much more independent sport compared to others because it’s a game against the course,” Long said. “In golf, the only thing that can actually affect my game is the layout of the course and the weather.”

Apart from the external factors, the player’s individual precision was another key part of each golf match.

“Strength [isn’t at play] as much in golf, but it’s more about how the club face hits the golf ball that determines how far you will hit,” **Andre Cote** (9) said.

Although there are strict rules in golf and stress that came with it, **Marvin Chen** (10) enjoyed golf because of its contrast to other sports and its relatively relaxing nature.

“Golf is an extremely unique sport because it’s a change of pace,” Chen said. “It is nice [in the fact that] you can just kind of spend two hours walking around, enjoying the scenery, and chatting with friends.”

Story by Eric Jaramillo and Suri Yau



## TERMS & definitions

GOLF VOCABULARY DEFINED

### PAR

“The expected amount of hits [the ball] is supposed to take to make into the hole.”

– **Landan Jones** (10)

### HAZARD

“An out-of-bounds area made of water or sand. If a ball goes in, then there is a two-stroke penalty.”

– **Kyle Ashe** (12)

### BOGEY

“Getting the ball in the hole one [after] par.”

– **Nicholas Guidi** (12)

### PUTTING GREEN

“The flattest part of the course, where we tap the ball into the hole.”

– **Andre Cote** (9)

### IRON

“Type of golf club used when hitting on the putting green.”

– **Nicholas Guidi** (12)



**FOLLOWING THE RULES** Keeping his grip, **Ryan Moyer** (9) steadily puts the ball. Moyer always tried to keep his ball in the boundaries, as the penalty for hitting out could result in taking up his teammates’ time from hitting. “Rules like [keeping the ball out of hazards] can keep the game moving so nobody gets stuck behind someone who is slow,” Moyer said.

Photo by Jesus Hernandez Tornez

**FOR THE FUTURE** **Nicholas Ashe** (12) takes note of the distance between him and the hole. Although Ashe enjoyed the process of playing golf, his motive for joining the team was for a different reason. “Golf is the sport of business, and I want to major in business [in college],” Ashe said. “If I can get my golf game to a respectable level, I think I’ll be set up to be a [better businessman].”

Photo courtesy of Now and Forever Studios



**ACCURACY** Paying attention to the direction of the ball, **Marvin Chen** (10) stays in position after swinging. Small details like these stayed in Chen’s mind to maintain his hitting technique. “I’m always making sure my swing hits the ball from the top, because then it will usually end up going straight toward the hole,” Chen said.

Photo by Eric Jaramillo

**FRIENDLY FEUD** Having the support of his teammates, **Animan Patil** (12) gets ready for the match to start. Patil employed different strategies to ease his anxieties about starting the game and keep his mind focused. “I usually calm myself down [before hitting] by watching the other players or my teammates,” Patil said. “I also think about what score I want to [achieve] for each hole.”

Photo courtesy of Now and Forever Studios



**FAR INTO THE DISTANCE** With a watchful eye, senior **Matthew Long** swings his arm back to hit the ball as hard as possible. Long prioritized maintaining a healthy and calm state of mind during his matches. “It’s really easy for me to go down a [mental] spiral after a bad shot, because I think [that I] need an extremely good shot to make up for the previous one,” Long said. Photo by Jesus Hernandez Tornez

**LITTLE REMINDERS** **Landan Jones** (10) carefully places the ball on the putting green. Jones constantly learned new lessons about golf from his grandfather in order to prepare for his matches. “[I’ve learned that] golf is really about handling the pressure and how to respond to bad shots,” Jones said. “I keep these [thoughts] in my head during the game to stay focused.”

Photo by Suri Yau