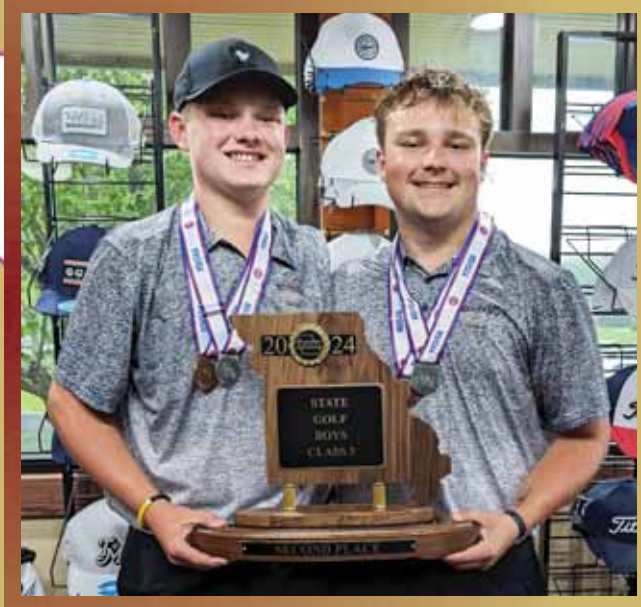


Eldon Mustangs



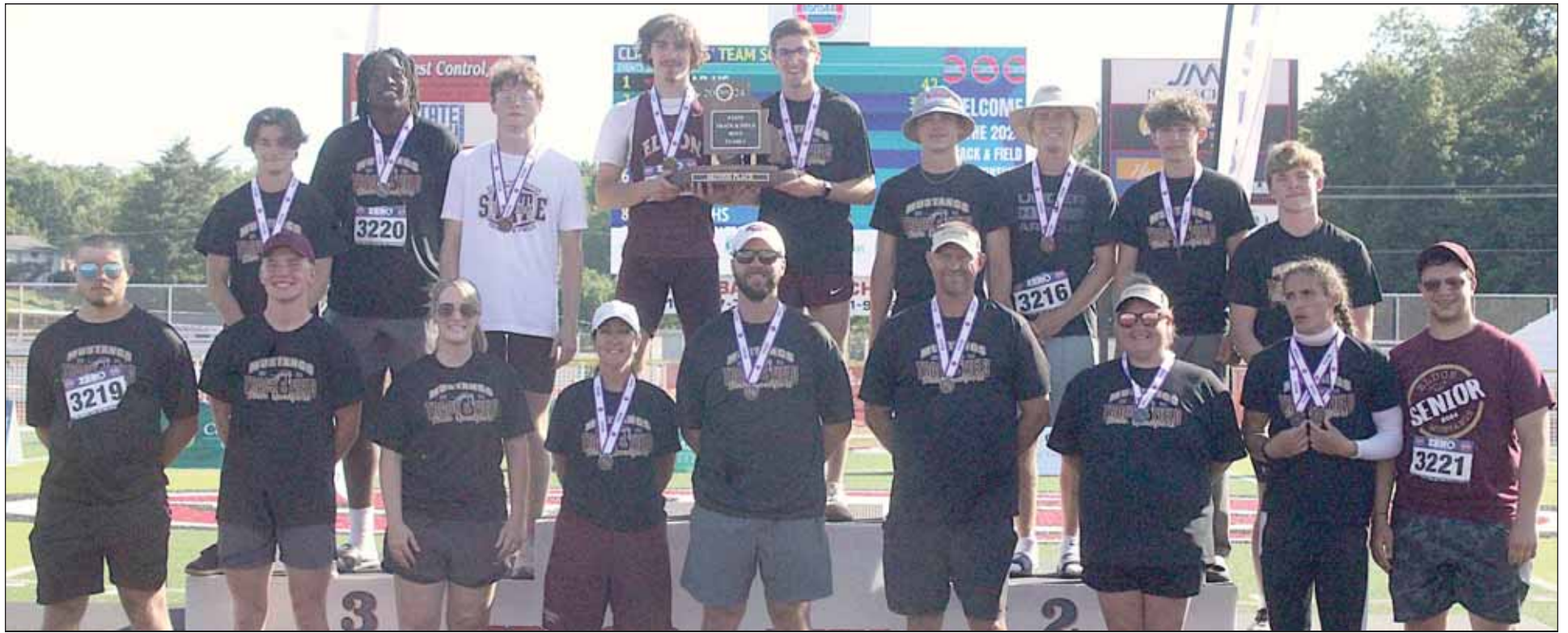
**Boys Golf - Class 3
Second Place**



2024

**Boys & Girls Track -
Class 3 Second Place**





Making history - Members of the Eldon varsity boys track and field team that finished second in the MSHSAA Class 3 Championships are, from left, front row: Josh Hicks, Evan Beanland, trainer Mary Blochberger, coach Kay Reed, head coach Ben Cooper, coach Toby Eldridge, coach Taylor Wall, Andrew Beanland and Ethan Miller; back row: Jesiah Simmons, Vijay Jones, Jalen Beckmann, Will Richardson, Nathan Reynolds, Colin Brisbin, Tevin Eldridge, Hugh Beanland and Brody Beanland.

Track Mustangs have historic season

The 2024 Eldon boys track and field team had a historic season.

The Mustangs were a balanced team filled with many athletes, making them competitive in each discipline of track.

After falling to Capital City in the season-opening dual meet, the Mustangs then finished second at the Blair Oaks Invitational before winning the Linn Invitational.

After that the boys finished second at their Maroon and Gold Relays, 11th at the Bill Summa Invitational in Independence before competing in the Licklider Relays in Jefferson City.

The Mustangs set some records at that meet. Sprinter Andrew Beanland broke one of the longest standing records in the books when he finished with a time of 22.04 seconds during his preliminary race in the 200-meter dash.

Brandon Ochs set a new mark in the javelin and the 4x100-meter relay team of Andrew Beanland, Hugh Beanland, Jalen Beckmann and Will Richardson set a new record in that event.

Following a trip to Grain Valley, then to Sedalia, the Mustangs then competed in

the Tri-County Conference meet, bringing home top honors in convincing fashion.

The winning continued as the Mustangs won their first ever district championship in Cuba, then claiming the sectional crown at Mountain Grove.

Eldon would announce its presence as a state championship contender by qualifying 10 events to the state championships.

Meanwhile records kept falling, seemingly left and right.

Nathan Reynolds, who set a new 800-meter record at Sedalia, lowered his records in both the 1600 and 3200-meter runs, earning state bids in both events. The 4x100-meter relay team set a new mark again at sectionals as well.

At the state meet, Vijay Jones got the Mustangs rolling with a second-place finish in the discus. Jesiah Simmons and Reynolds kept it going. Simmons finished tied for sixth in the pole vault, while Reynolds finished sixth in the 1600-meter run, lowering his school record to 4:21.10.

Andrew Beanland qualified for the fi-

nals in both the 100-meter dash and as a member of the 4x100-meter relay team.

Beckmann ran a solid 22.60 in his 200-meter preliminary, but it was not quite enough to move along.

Colin Brisbin, competed in the 300-meter hurdles. Brisbin suffered a fall in his preliminary when a runner in the lean to his right clipped a hurdle and inadvertently kicked it into Brisbin's lane, causing the fall.

Brisbin was given a re-run, but it did not happen until all events were completed. Running with an injury, all by himself, and with very few fans remaining in the stands, Brisbin looked like he would earn a spot in the finals until the closing moments of the race, and he fell just short.

More adversity happened on Saturday when Andrew Beanland suffered an injury during the long jump. His lone jump was good enough to put him into the finals. But, Beanland elected to not jump any further, protecting himself from further injury as he prepared to run the 100-meter dash.

But the decision proved fruitful as he

finished sixth in the 100. Then, Beanland, younger brother Hugh, Beckmann and Richardson went out and lowered their record 400-meter time again, finishing third with a time of 42.88 seconds.

That finish would seemingly inspire Richardson, who at the time was also competing in the high jump.

Richardson was one jump away from being eliminated, but after clearing the height to stay alive, he caught fire. Richardson then went on to clear 1.99 meters (6 feet, 6-1/4 inches) to not only set a new school record, but to win the event, becoming Eldon's first individual event champion since Levi Shinn in 2016.

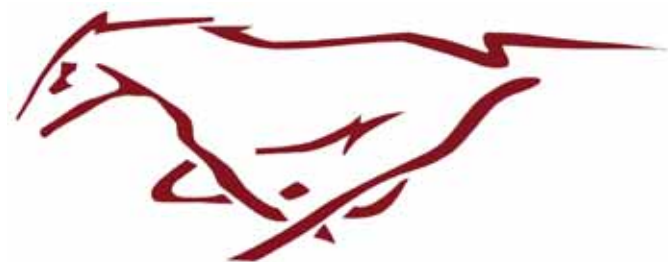
Reynolds would finish the weekend with a fourth-place finish in the 3200-meter run. In true Reynolds fashion, he eclipsed his own school record, setting a new mark with a time of 9:35.39.

When all was said and done, the Mustangs with seven medalists in 10 events, racking up a total of 37.5 points, finishing just 4.5 points behind Lamar and earning their first-ever podium finish as the runner-up.

On the cover -

Our special section cover features some of the outstanding athletes on the teams we are recognizing.

Clockwise from top left - Eldon golfers Cooper Toalson and Teagen Hull hold up the Mustangs' trophy. Both golfers finished in a tie for fifth place individually, leading the Mustangs to a second-place finish. Eldon's Zoe Martonfi sports her traditional French braids, along with the million-watt smile as she receives one of her four state medals. Martonfi won two events at the state meet. And, finally, junior Will Richardson celebrates his state championship after he won the long jump competition.

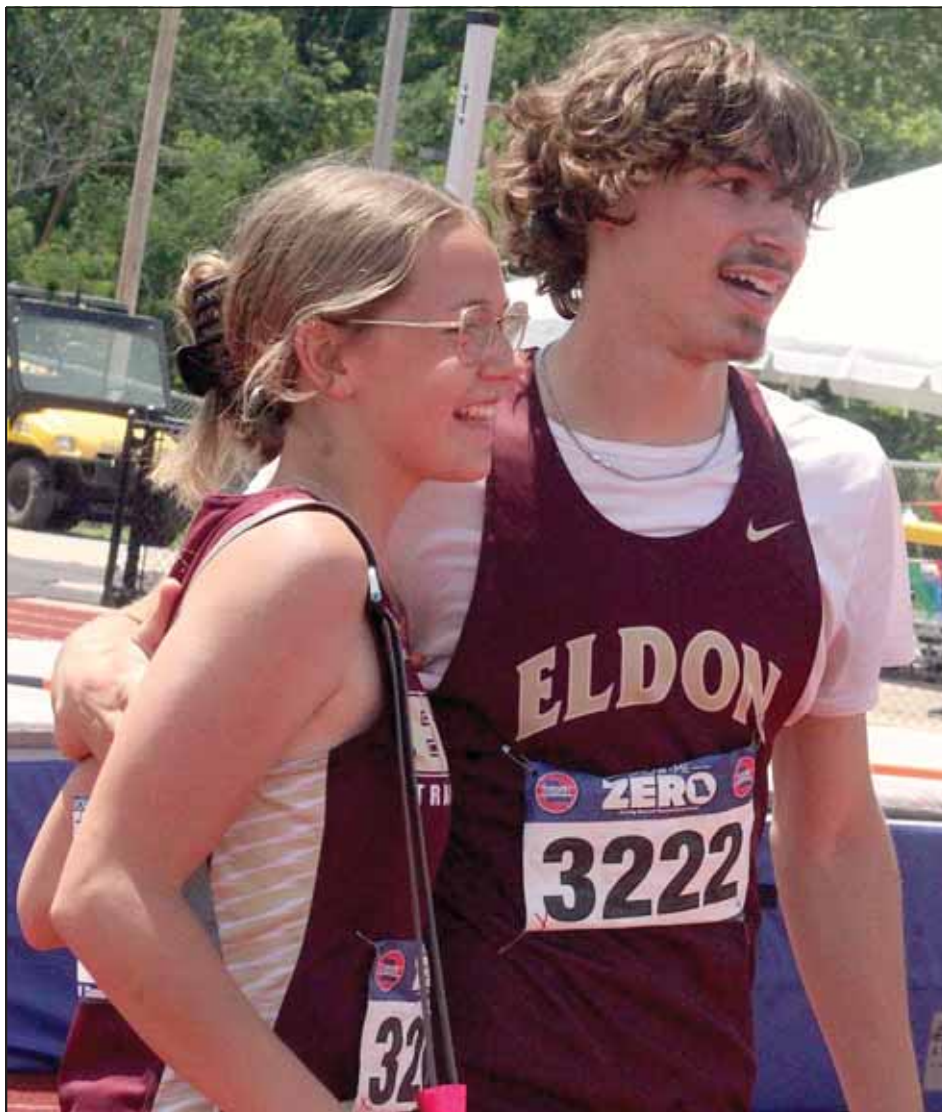




Make it quick - Jalen Beckmann hands the baton to Will Richardson during the finals of the 4x100-meter relay at the MSHSAA Track and Field Championships. The team went on to finish third and set a new school record in the process.



On your mark - Andrew Beanland takes his mark as he gets ready to run in the 100-meter dash prelim at the MSHSAA Track and Field Championships. Beanland finished third in the event and earned two medals over the weekend.



Great job - Will Richardson celebrates his win in the high jump with fellow high-jumper Mikala Huckabee. Huckabee also earned a state medal in the high jump, finishing sixth.



One quick quartet - The Eldon boys 400-meter relay team broke the school record several times, including their third-place winning race at the MSHSAA Championships. Team members are, from left: Jalen Beckmann, Will Richardson, Hugh Beanland and Andrew Beanland.



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Congratulations
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We did it - The Eldon boys track and field team shows off its second-place trophy to the Mustang fans after the conclusion of team ceremonies at the MSHSAA Championships in Jefferson City. The second-place finish marks the first state trophy in school history.



Ready to throw - Vijay Jones gets ready to unleash the discus during the opening field event at the MSHAA Track and Field Championships in Jefferson City. Jones got the Mustangs off to a good start in the event, finishing second in the discus.

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Lady Mustangs earn more hardware - The Eldon Lady Mustang track and field squad finished second at the MSHSAA Class 3 Championships. Members of the team are, from left, front row: Trainer Mary Blochberger, coach Sydney Prater, coach Kay Reed, head coach Toby Eldridge, coach Rene McDevitt and coach Taylor Wall; back row: Emily Ramirez, Phoebe Zacher, Delaney McGay, Ravyn DeLong, Hannah Beanland, Lydia Cotten, Mikala Huckabee, Zoe Martonfi, Sydney Halderman, Corin Davis, Brit-tany Morris and Addyson Eldridge.

Lady Mustang tracksters finish second again

Once again, the Eldon Lady Mustang track and field team was a force to be reckoned with in 2024.

The team brought back a good number of qualifiers from last year's team and they were looking forward to a shot at winning a state championship that has eluded them in the past.

After defeating Capital City in a dual meet, the Lady Mustangs finished second at the Blair Oaks Invitational.

After competing at the Linn Invitational, the Lady Mustangs finished second to Centralia in their home meet, the Maroon and Gold Relays.

Eldon then competed at both the Bull Summa Invitational in Independence and the Licklider Relays in Jefferson City.

At the Tri-County conference meet, the

Lady Mustangs successfully defended their title.

They soon followed up with another district title, but they came up short at the sectional meet, finishing second. Despite finishing second, the Lady Mustangs qualified eight events to the state meet, putting them in good position.

The Lady Mustangs had an up and down day on the first day of the state meet.

Phoebe Zacher finished 10th in the shot put and the 4x100-meter relay team of Hannah Beanland, Ravyn DeLong, Brittany Morris and Sydney Halderman ran a season-best time of 51.60 seconds, but they failed to advance to the finals.

Despite those downs, there were more ups. Senior Zoe Martonfi added two more wins to her large collection. She won both

the 800-meter and 1600-meter runs, setting new school records in both events.

In the mile, Martonfi eclipsed the 5-minute mile, posting a new record time of 4:59.75, setting a new record that has a chance to stand for quite some time.

In another up, sophomore Mikala Huckabee earned points as she finished sixth in the high jump.

On Saturday, Martonfi wrapped up her illustrious career with two more medals. She finished second in the 300-meter hurdles, recording a season-best time of 44.91 seconds in her final race.

As she was preparing for the final jump of her career in the triple jump, she managed to fulfill a prophecy by her coach, Toby Eldridge.

Telling the story during the track team's awards celebration, "I had taught

her everything I could," he said, "I said just go out and jump 11.11 meters."

Always coachable, Martonfi went out and did just that. When the mark came back at 11.11 meters, Eldridge just stood there amazed.

When it was done, the Lady Mustangs had 38 points, once again falling short to another private school as Incarnate Word Academy had 43 points. It was the third consecutive year the Lady Mustangs had finished second to a private school in the championships.

Still, before this run, the Lady Mustangs had never achieved a podium finish. Now the Lady Mustangs have three seconds under their belt, still a nice accomplishment.



Eldon's track and field GOAT finishes career

For past four years, the Eldon Lady Mustangs have had the pleasure and the privilege of having one of the best athletes representing them on the track.

But senior Zoe Martonfi is also one of the best young women to ever don the maroon and gold.

Known for her trademark French braided hair and a smile that can light up even the darkest of facilities, Martonfi has been a constant force of success for the Lady Mustang track and field squad.

She holds school records in the 800-meter run, 1600-meter run and 3200-meter run. Over the course of her track career, she has amassed more than 1,300 points, competing in a multitude of

events.

She was always at her best when competing with the best. She has a total of 15 state track and field medals, far and away, the most out of any female athlete.

Her two state championships at the 2024 state meet give her a total of five, breaking Sara Rhine's mark of four set over the course of her career.

What makes Martonfi's medal count more amazing is the number of different events in which she medaled. Martonfi's medals have come in seven different events and she usually is among the highest of finishers. Her worst finish at state is *sixth*, coming in the 110-meter hurdles her freshman year.

She amassed a total of 115 points in her state career and played a huge role in three second-place finishes for her team.

She also got to try some new events this year. At the Liklider Relays, Martonfi competed in the pentathlon, which includes a couple of events out of her comfort zone.

No worries, she finished second in the 100-meter dash with a respectable time of 13.04 seconds and second in the shot put (despite her 'chicken arms', she said). She also finished second in the long jump and won the high jump and the 800-meter run to win the pentathlon.

In addition to her 15 track and field medals, she also has four cross-country

medals, making her a 19-time all-state honoree.

Now bigger and brighter days await as Martonfi will go to Yale University in New Haven, Conn. She does plan to walk on the cross country and track teams at Yale University (Ivy League schools do not offer athletics scholarships).

Zoe Martonfi's state finishes

2021 - 100-meter hurdles, 6th; 300-meter hurdles, 2nd, triple jump, 4th

2022 - 1600-meter run, 2nd, 300-meter hurdles, 2nd, 3200-meter run, 3rd, high jump, 3rd

2023 - 800-meter run, 1st, 1600-meter run, 1st, 300-meter hurdles, 1st, triple jump, 3rd

2024 - 800-meter run, 1st, 1600-meter run, 1st, 300-meter hurdles, 2nd, triple jump, 3rd



Her final race - Zoe Martonfi clears a hurdle as she competes in her final track race, the 300-meter hurdles final at the MSHSAA championships. Martonfi finished second in the event.

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Jump right to it - Sophomore Mikala Huckabee was a very pleasant surprise for the Eldon Lady Mustang track and field squad. She wound up finishing sixth in the high jump at the state meet.



Fast foursome - Eldon's girls 400-meter relay team competed in the state championship meet. Members of the team are from left: Hannah Beanland, Brittany Morris, Ravyn DeLong and Sydney Halderman. (Submitted photo)



Rookie thrower - Phoebe Zacher turned out to have an impressive season. The freshman would finish 10th in the shot put at the state meet.

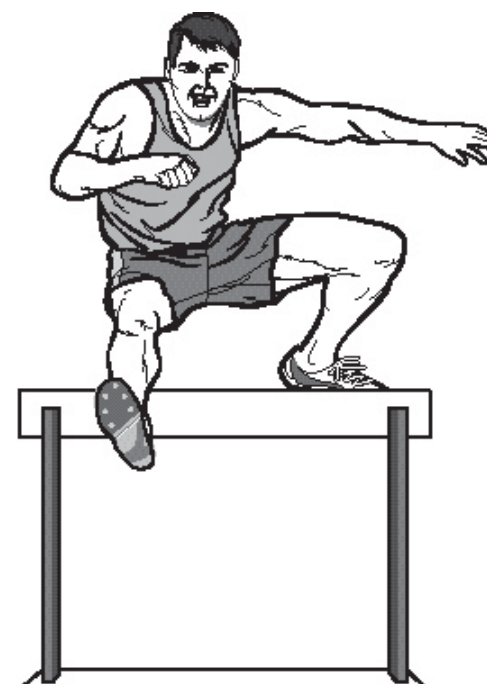
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Mustangs finish second - The Eldon golf Mustangs finished second at the MSHSAA Championships. Members of the team are from left: coach Michael Cummings, Teagen Hull, Brody Rader, Zack Hull, Cooper Toalson, Luke Barchenski and head coach Matt Frey.

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Teagen had a hull of a career

When one looks back at the roll of Eldon golfing greats, one who should stand out is Teagen Hull.

The son of Ski and Jillyn Hull is one of the primary reasons the Eldon golf team is back on a run of prominence.

A four-year letter-winner, Hull has put together a remarkable career full of achievements.

In his final campaign, Hull earned five first-place finishes, including the championship of the Tri-County Conference Tournament. He also won the Versailles tournament.

He ended his Eldon golf career with four appearances in the state championships, never finishing outside the top 25.

He was tied for 24th his freshman year, tied for 21st his sophomore season. He then finished 13th his junior year and tied for fifth in his final season, netting two state medals.

He is also a member of the Eldon squad that set the new team low nine-hole record with a 144.

Hull will now advance to the next phase of his career, as he plans to play at Western Illinois University, where he will continue his education.



Great way to finish - Eldon golf senior Teagen Hull finished in a tie for fifth place individually (with teammate Cooper Toalson), leading the Mustangs to a second-place finish in the MSHSAA Class 3 championship.

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Barchenski wraps up career

The Eldon golf Mustangs will say good-bye to one more senior this season.

Luke Barchenski was a solid, steady performer for four seasons. He often produced great rounds when the team needed him.

Playing with his trademark black cap with the cross on it, Barchenski offered a calm presence on the course. He played often as the number four and number five spot, but he more often than not come up with scores befitting players of much better rank.

In tournaments this season, Barchenski recorded three top 15 finishes, including a top 10 finish at Versailles. During

regular match play, Barchenski also earned three runner-up finishes.

Barchenski fired a 1-under par 35 on two occasions this season, each time the team broke its previous nine hole team score.

He will wrap up his Eldon golf career as the three-time state tournament qualifier and a one-time all-state selection. He finished 14th at the state meet in 2023. He also helped the team to two podium finishes.

After his final summer on the Missouri Junior Tour, he will head to William Woods University to further his education and continue his golf career.



A good finish - Eldon senior Luke Barchenski was a mainstay on the golf team, earning three trips to the state tournament.



Sixth man - Talon Hull served as Eldon's No. 6 player, getting to play when tournaments allowed six players, or if one of the top five were unable to play.



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*Congratulations
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Dandy debut - Freshman Cooper Toalson earned the No. 2 spot on the Mustang golf team and he did not disappoint. He was the medalist in Eldon's first match of the season and finished in a tie for fifth at the state championships.



Zack of all trades - Eldon's Zack Hull had another good season as he played in the No. 3 position for the golf Mustangs for much of the season.

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Golf Mustangs have outstanding season

The Eldon Golf Mustangs had an incredible season in 2024. The expectations were very high and the Mustangs were able to meet most of those.

As a team, Eldon won every one of its regular matches and four of its five tournaments during the regular season. The only exception was an 11th-place showing at the Helias Invitational, which featured a large number of much larger schools.

There were plenty of challenges along the way. Eldon got a clutch putt from No. 1 player Teagen Hull on the final hole to nip Blair Oaks for the Tri-County Conference Tournament.

But when this team had all five players clicking, the Mustangs could put together low scores. They broke the team record for low nine-hole score three times, shooting a 150 or better on four occasions.

Another challenge awaited the Mustangs as they traveled to the Horton Smith Golf and Country Club in Springfield for their district tournament.

In the field were three of last year's top four teams, Eldon, Logan-Rogersville and Blair Oaks. Once again, the Mustangs showed their mettle and won by a scant one stroke over Logan-Rogersville.

Since all five players finished high enough to qualify for the state tournament, all five got to play.

Having all five players at state is an advantage since the fifth player could be used to break any team ties.

Last year's state champion, Bishop LeBlond, did not qualify as a team, but in its place was Summit Christian Academy.

SCA led from start to finish, leaving the Mustangs to battle it out with other teams.

But a great second day, which saw the Mustangs fire a score of 299, pulled them into second place, where they finished.

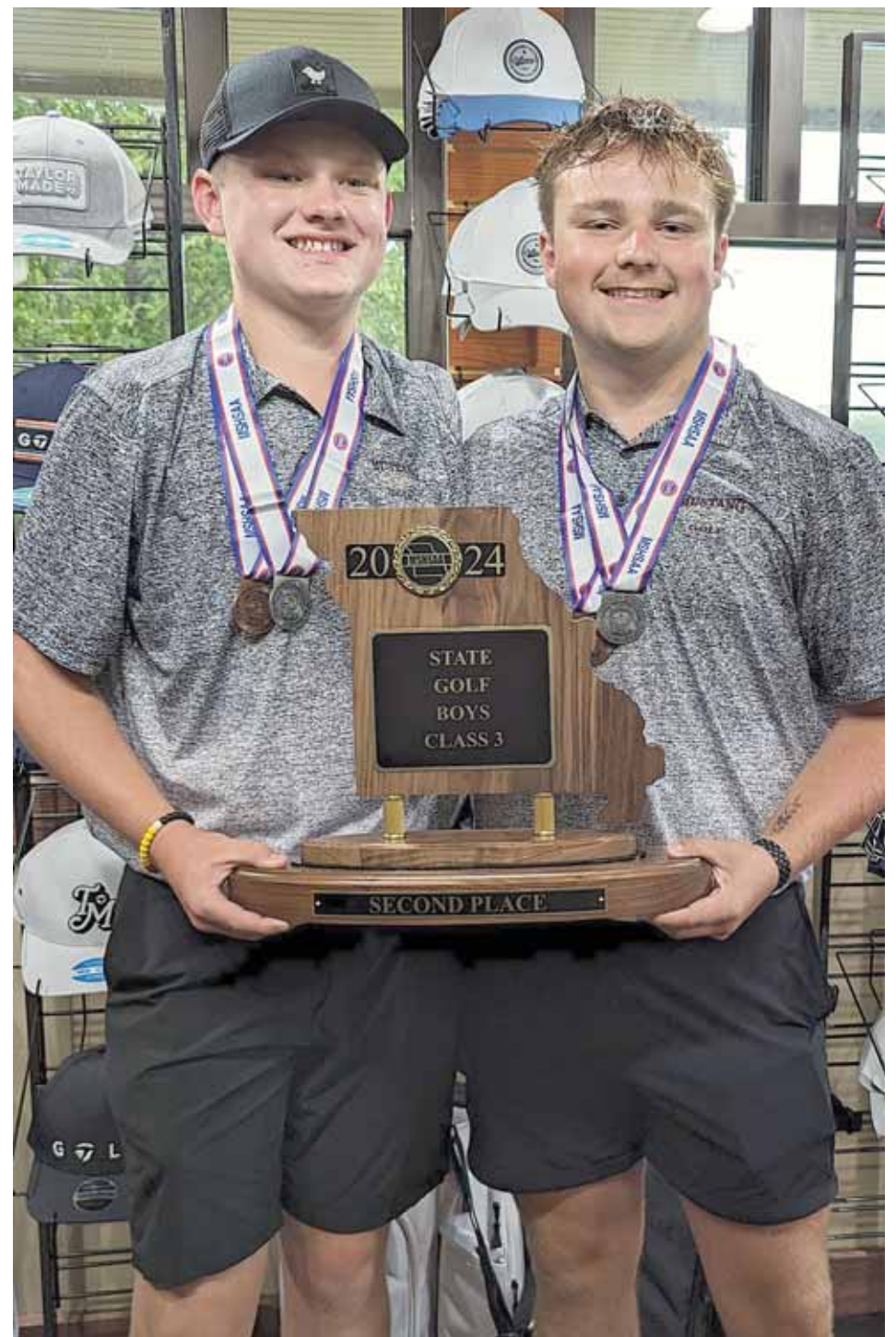
Eldon's top two players, Teagen Hull and Cooper Toalson finished in a three-way tie for fifth, shooting a 5-over-par 145 for the two days, earning both of them all-state honors.

Zack Hull finished in a four-way tie for 17th and Luke Barchenski and Brody Rader each tied for 48th.

For the Mustangs, it was the team's sixth-ever podium finish. The golf team trails only Eldon's volleyball team in terms of top four finishes, but with talent coming in the future, the Mustangs could very well find themselves on the podium for years to come.



No slump here - Brody Rader did not suffer through a sophomore slump. In fact, Rader was a three-time medalist in dual matches, recording the low round for the Mustangs in those events.



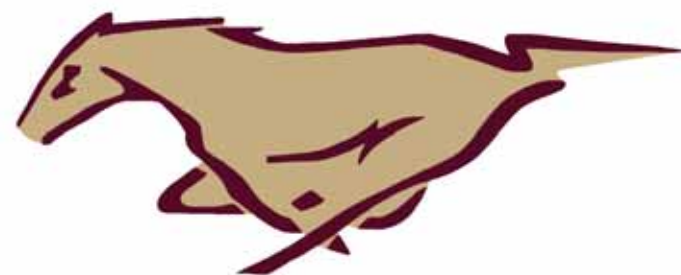
All-state duo - Eldon golfers Cooper Frey (left) and Teagen Hull tied for fifth at the MSHSAA Class 3 Golf Championships. Both Hull and Frey earned all-state honors with their fifth place finishes.

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