

Golf preview from page B1

least philosophically, will be able to come up with four solid players and be more competitive."

"I have a feeling teams like ours that have been extremely solid for four years will benefit. Every one of them is capable of shooting a sub-par round."

Miner chose to keep 16 of the 28 boys who tried out for the team, because there was just a three-stroke difference between the Nos. 7 and 16 players.

"Historically, we made the cut after three days," Miner said, adding an average of 45-46 was enough to make the team in the past. "This year the 16th player is shooting 43-3."

"Something has happened. I'm not sure what it is, but it's a good sign. The players coming up are a little stronger and understanding the game better."

Others who could see some playing time include junior Jason Welsh, a new player who will be a solid No. 5 or 6 if he keeps playing the way he is, according to Miner.

Junior Adam Ellis will challenge for one of the top six spots with senior Matt Ryder and junior Aaron Cole.

"We have a lot of players who look like they spent some time on the course and played some matches over the summer," Miner said.

The Falcons also finished fourth in a regional tournament and qualified for the state finals by three strokes.

"I think we're strong enough,

if everybody contributes as I think they can, to qualify this year," Miner said. "Certainly, if the first four continue to play consistently all year long, we should have no problem."

Farmington Harrison

The Hawks have one of the top players in the area, maybe the state, in senior Matt Lee, a perennial member of the All-



Matt Lee



Keith Hay

Other players who could help are John Kukla, Joey Graves, Matt Kjelhede, Danny Doig and Paul Mazzanka.

Harrison was around .500 in dual matches and finished 11th in the 12-team WLAA meet.

"Our expectations are always high," Spencer said. "We have three tournaments this week. By Friday, we'll have a pretty good handle where we stand."

North Farmington

The bad news is also the good news for the Raiders.

"We've got a very young team," coach Bruce Sutton said of his sophomore-laden squad. "But we've got everybody back from last year except one player."

The player is Mike Patterson, who graduated. His role as the leading golfer should be taken by senior captain Matt Buber.

"He finished No. 3 on the team last year," Sutton said. "He did a lot of work on his game during the winter and summer. He's playing good golf at this time."

Sophomores Aaron Newman and Scott Macow are among the top three golfers entering the start of play this season.

"We play three tournaments this week, so we should find out how the team is by this weekend," Sutton said.

Newman is already tournament-tested from summer play.

Senior Junichi Miura, who played in all 17 matches, dropped his average from 42 to somewhere in the 30s. Sophomore David Koch also played a lot and earned a letter while averaging 44.

"He's hitting the ball farther and scoring better," Spencer said.

Junior Chris Fitzgerald is

another top returnee, averaging 44 while playing in 13 matches. "He works at San Marino (Golf Course) and plays a lot of golf," Spencer said.

"I have very high expectations

for the team, if they use the

course to their advantage and

play smart," Sutton said. "Hope-

fully, we'll be competitive with

the other teams."

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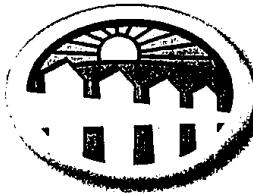


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