



## **Saint Viator Boys' Golf Team Makes History**

In what has been called a run for the ages, the Saint Viator boys' golf team went to their 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive state finals. With a runner-up finish in 2006 and two straight Class 3A titles in 2007 and 2008, the Lions were the favorites as they headed to The Den in Bloomington. Over the weekend, the team won their 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive Class 3A title with an 8 shot victory over New Trier and secured their place in history.

Last spring, Saint Viator golf coach Jack Halpin was faced with a difficult decision when the IHSA reclassified the school to 2A in the three class sport. The school petitioned the IHSA and was granted permission to stay in Class 3A for boys' golf.

"We asked the players and their families what they wanted to do and they were unanimous in wanting to go for three in a row at the highest level."

The last school to win three in a row at the highest level of competition was Rockford East (1942-1945) 64 years ago.

The win put Saint Viator golf in the same conversation as programs such as legends' East St. Louis' football teams in the '80s and Peoria Manual's basketball team in the '90s.

Saint Viator set the IHSA team scoring record last year at The Den (par 72) with a 583 (+7) surpassing University High's prior record set at Prairie Vista (par 71) of 583 (+15).

Senior Dan Stringfellow shot an even par 144 to win the state individual title by 2 strokes. Stringfellow is only the 2<sup>nd</sup> player ever to finish in the top 10 in all four years (5<sup>th</sup> in 2006, 8<sup>th</sup> in 2007 and 5<sup>th</sup> in 2008). He also won the sectional medalist title by shooting an eagle on the 1<sup>st</sup> playoff hole. Stringfellow has verbally committed to Auburn.

Last year's Class 3A champion, Joe Carlson, also from Saint Viator, finished in a tie for 6<sup>th</sup> place. In 2008, Carlson broke the individual scoring record at The Den with a 137 (-7). That record had been held for a year by Luke Guthrie of Quincy High. Previous to that, the record was held by PGA tour professional Jay Haas of Belleville West since 1972.

Fellow senior and captain Brad Klune had an impressive career in the state finals. Carlson was 1<sup>st</sup> in 2008 and 12<sup>th</sup> in 2007 while Klune was 5<sup>th</sup> in 2006, 20<sup>th</sup> in 2007 and 23<sup>rd</sup> in 2008.

In keeping with their tradition of being the deepest team in the State, the Lions also had Regional co-medalist freshman Luke DeTrempe (71), junior Ken Wienckowski (shot a 70 in the Wildcat Invitational earlier in the year) and senior Joe Ferrari.

Ferrari proved to be the team hero in the final round shooting a 38 on the back nine to clinch the title for the Lions. Kenny Wienckowski also counted both days with rounds of 80 and 76 in very difficult weather conditions.

Earlier on the road to state, the Lions won the Fremd Regional (5<sup>th</sup> consecutive title) and were the co-champions at the Glenbrook North Sectional, with New Trier, shooting a 297. This was their 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive Sectional title.

Prior to their state win, the highlight of the 2009 season was the team's 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the McDonalds National High School Team Championships in Kingsport, Tennessee.