

## Golf Rivalry Rematch

By James Ketler

LAKEVILLE — There's rarely so much at stake for high school golf. This Tuesday, October 1, the Apponequet Varsity Golf Team (9-1) will be facing Old Rochester Regional (9-1) at 3:30pm at the Lakeville Country Club. This comes after the two long-standing rivals faced each other just last week at The Bay Club, with ORR barely squeezing out a win of 148-143. As Apponequet Co-Captain Ryan Dandrea told me, "The latest match was brutal. We knew coming into it that it was going to be a battle, but we never imagined it being that close."

Part of what contributes to the rivalry between Apponequet and ORR is that "both teams are very evenly matched," as ORR Coach Chris Cabe said. No team dominates over the other in skill level. Rather, each match is a question of who can bring the most effort and strategy to the course. This is particularly reflected in the teams' even records of 9-1 each this golf season. "A lot of our rivalry," said Co-Capt. Dandrea, "has been fueled by close matches" — and this past Thursday was just one such example.

This week, the two teams will meet up again, and no-one appreciates the importance of this rematch as much as they do. Coach Cabe says that it "will be a nail biter again," and that with such evenly matched groups of golfers, "it could go either way." It is anticipated to be a classic toss-up match between the two teams, with no clear victor emerging until the very end of the round.

However, Apponequet Co-Captain Connor Brien-Berks pointed out that while "ORR is very good at their home course Bay Club," Apponequet is "deadly at Lakeville Country Club." This home advantage, though, won't just hand Apponequet the win. As Co-Capt. Dandrea made

clear, “[E]very player is important in the top 8. The typical ‘weakest link’ cliché applies to our team. To win Tuesday, everyone has to put up a score we know they are capable of.” Indeed, it will take a full team effort to win, with each golfer giving their all to the match.

Even still, Co-Capt. Brien-Berks is “very confident” that Apponequet can take the win this week, as long as they let go of any worries and, in his words, simply “play our golf.” Whatever happens, the match is bound to be hard-fought, and may influence the very nature of the teams’ rivalry going into the future.