

Seniors

from 1B



The Harrodsburg Herald/Wesley Bird
The Mercer boys golf team pictured ,left to right, back row: Back Row (L to R) Noah Nichols, Bryce Broderick, Carson Whitenack, Liam Tyler, Ben Hume, Colton Horn, Carter Nichols. Front Row (L to R) Harrison Carlton, RP Muller, Ian Selby, Micah Ransdell and Cael Bloyd.

Mercer County Titans 2026 Boys Golf Schedule		
Aug. 1	@ Taylor County (Campbellsville Country Club)	8:00 a.m.
Aug. 3	@ Owensboro (Owensboro Country Club)	8:00 a.m.
Aug. 11	@ Woodford County (The Woodford Club)	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 13	@ East Jessamine (Peninsula Golf Course)	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 15	@ Anderson County (Wild Turkey Trace)	8:00 a.m.
Aug. 18	@ Lincoln County (Dix River Golf Course)	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 20	@ DCA (Danville County Club)	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 25	Rockcastle County (Bright Leaf Golf Resort)	5:30 p.m.
Aug. 27	Boyle County (Bright Leaf Golf Resort)	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 1	Garrard County (Bright Leaf Golf Resort)	5:30 p.m.
Sept. 5	Woodford County (The Woodford Club)	9:00 a.m.
Sept. 22	Taylor County (Campbellsville Country Club)	9:00 a.m.

varsity team made up of freshmen and sophomores. Anderson highlighted that his numbers have never been better, and he sees a

lot of interest at the middle school level. “This group has the potential to lay the foundation for some very success-

ful years in the near future. Golf in Mercer County is at one of the highest points, in terms of interest, by our student-athletes. This is the largest team I have had in quite a long time. Our middle school program currently has between 20 and 30 golfers. Hopefully this group will be the catalyst for what appears to be an exciting next five to eight years for Mercer County golf,” said Anderson.

The standard stays the same for Mercer, who are coming off another 2A section 5 championship.

Anderson and his seniors will push for individual success as the rest of the roster continues to grow in preparation for continued success.

“We aim to continue our streak of three consecutive 2A Section 5 Championships. This will be a challenge this year, but our program will never shy away from one. Our schedule stays the same in good years and reloading years. This will be an exciting year as Nichols and Whitenack chase their individual goals, and the younger players improve and set the tone for the next five to eight seasons. This is what I love about coaching golf, as it balances the team with the individual, so even when your team is reloading, your players can still chase individual accomplishments. There is a lot to be excited about in our program,” said Anderson.

Anderson spoke highly of his seniors both for what they bring to the course, their ability to mentor his younger players and the accomplishments they have achieved outside of golf.

“Coaching Noah and Carson has been a blessing. Over the past 24 years, I have had the privilege of coaching some of the best young men in Mercer County. Noah and Carson are two of them. They both love to compete and have strong work ethics. They lead by example and embrace mentoring our

younger players in any way they can. Aside from excelling on the golf course, they are competing academically at the top of the senior class. Noah is both a state and national champion in track and field. Carson just recently completed his first solo flight. I look forward to watching them both succeed

at whatever they do,” said Anderson

Coach Anderson and his assistants, Marshall Thompson and Brennan Walton, have a lot to be excited about this season. Mercer’s next match is Tuesday, Aug. 11, against Woodford County at the Woodford Club.

**MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
PROPOSED TAX RATE**

The Mercer County Board of Education is proposing a general fund tax levy of 69.9 cents on real property, which is .6 cents lower than the prior year, and 70.5 cents on personal property, which is 1.4 cents lower than the prior year.

The General Fund tax levied in fiscal year 2026 was 70.5 cents on real property and 71.9 cents on personal property, producing revenue of \$12,260,304.71. The proposed General Fund tax rate of 69.9 cents on real property and 70.5 on personal property for fiscal year 2027 is expected to produce \$13,196,070.86. Of this amount, \$1,260,223.88 is from new and personal property. The compensating tax for 2027 is 67.6 cents on real and personal property and is expected to produce \$12,752,785.18.

The proposed rate is expected to generate more revenue than received in the prior year. The general areas to which revenue of \$935,766.15 is to be allocated are as follows: Cost of collections, \$21,055; building fund, \$46,788; instruction, \$280,760; transportation, \$46,788; maintenance of plant, \$514,671.15; and all other operations, \$25,734.

The Board will be voting on the proposed tax rates at the regular board meeting on August 20, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Mercer County Board of Education, 530 Perryville Street, Harrodsburg, KY 40330.

This information is published pursuant to KRS 160.470. The proposed tax rate is not subject to recall under KRS 132.017.

The General Assembly has required the publication of this advertisement and information contained herein.

Mercer

from 1B



Paisley King



Kensley Ellis



Kate Grider



The Harrodsburg Herald/Wesley Bird
The Mercer girls golf team pictured left to right: Head Coach LeeWood Arnold, Gracie Alvey, Marquenna Hereford, Paisley King, Kensley Ellis, Kate Grider, Charleigh Lopez , Madi Grant, Kira Coyt and assistant coach Megan VanArsdale. Not pictured: Eliana Higgs

gram a few years, and I’m excited for them to play,” said Arnold.

Arnold praised her seniors for their positivity and is excited to watch them in their final season at Mercer.

“I’m really going to miss them, they are a fun group. I have enjoyed watching them improve and also become more confident. They bring a lot of positivity and laughs to practices and matches,” said Arnold.

The Titans have eight more regular matches on the schedule which are against local teams in the area and will be competing in two invitationals this season included the Garrard

Mercer County Titans 2026 Girls Golf Schedule	
July 29	@ Danville Country Club
July 30	Garrard Invitational @ Old Bridge
Aug. 4	2A Invitational @ Juniper Hills
Aug. 10	@ Peninsula Golf Resort
Aug. 17	Bright Leaf Golf Resort
Aug. 24	@ Peninsula Golf Resort
Aug. 26	@ Danville Country Club
Aug. 31	@ Peninsula Golf Resort
Sept. 8	Bright Leaf Golf Resort (Senior Night)
Sept. 14	Bright Leaf Golf Resort
Sept. 22	Regional Tournament @ Peninsula Golf Resort

Invitational on July 30 and the 2A Invitational on Aug. 4. They close out the season with the last scheduled match being the regional tournament at Peninsula Golf Resort on Sept. 22. Mercer plans to have its senior night on Sept. 8, at Bright Leaf Golf Resort.

Vaught

from 2B

three tackles for loss, and three interceptions.

Westmoreland’s explosiveness led to offers from Michigan State, South Carolina, Louisville, West Virginia and others along with Kentucky. He’s a top 500 prospect nationally.

“I think I could excel on both sides of the ball even in college. I will see what I do best this year and then choose what to play in college. Certainly there’s a possibility I could try to play both ways in college,” Westmoreland said. “I have talked with them (Kentucky coaches) about that.

“I do feel like I am an elite defensive player. My ability to follow the ball through the air and read the quarterback’s eyes and know where to go before the play starts is what I do best. I have good instincts. My freshman year I got used

to reading offensive schemes and knowing what teams run. I study football a lot.”

He played basketball until he got to high school and feels that contributed to his defensive skills.

“Playing basketball helped my ability to slide my feet and back pedal,” he said.

Westmoreland has enjoyed “building connections with new people” in Corbin and says his outgoing personality enables him to make friends.

“We have very nice talent on this team. I really think we have a shot to make the state championship game,” he said. “Mason (Salmons) will be one of the top quarterbacks in the state (he threw for 2,401 yards and 30 touchdowns with just two interceptions in 2025). He’s overlooked recruiting-wise due to his size but he has great arm talent. He also plays

on defense at strong safety. He’s a tough guy.”

However, the biggest “tough guy” has to be Brown. He’s a top 300 recruit nationally who was pursued heavily by Ohio State, Miami and many others.

“I have a relationship with him. I helped convince him to commit to UK because he is the kind of defensive lineman you want on your team,” Westmoreland said. “He is even better than I thought he was. He is way faster than I thought. He’s probably one of the fastest defensive linemen in college or high school I have ever seen. His lateral movement is unreal. It’s crazy how fast and good he is.

“Me and Malachi plan to head up to UK for a couple of games this season. We want to show how committed we are

See Vaught | 3B

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