

1997 Sectional...

Golfers seek district spots

News-Messenger reports

TOLEDO — Entering this morning's start of the Division II sectional tournament at Detwiler Golf Course, Genoa knows it is the favorite to repeat as champs.

Coach Tom Pickerel, however, said the Comets aren't approaching this year's tournament with that in mind.

"I really don't think the kids look at that," Pickerel said. "I haven't heard them mention it and I don't think that (being the favorite) bothers them. I think they kind of look at that as a nice sign, that you have the ability to play well or you wouldn't be considered the favorite."

Genoa, which shattered the Suburban Lakes League scoring record last week at Green Hills, will compete against 11 other teams when sectional play begins at 9 a.m. Fellow SLL member Lakota will be in the field along with Sandusky Bay Conference teams Clyde, Oak Harbor and Margaretta.

The top three teams and three individual low scorers not on qualifying teams advance to the district tournament Oct. 10 at Louden Meadows in Fostoria.

Genoa, which has already played — and beaten — every team in the sectional except Evergreen, defeated Toledo Bowsher earlier this season at Detwiler. The Comets shot 154 for nine holes.

Fremont Ross traveled Thursday to Mansfield for today's Div. I sectional at Westbrook Country Club. Bellevue is among the field.

The area's Div. III teams — St. Joseph Central Catholic, Gibsonburg, Old Fort, Woodmore and Bettsville — competed at Green Hills Golf Course Wednesday because of the observance of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year.

Ottawa Hills won the tournament, but St. Joe's Nate Waleryszak qualified to the Oct. 10 districts at Bowling Green with a 78. Gibsonburg's Nick Kaemming outdueled St. Joe's Aaron Zimmerman in the second hole of a playoff for the final district spot. After each player parred the first playoff hole, Kaemming sank a three-foot bogey putt as Zimmerman double-bogeyed the par 3 hole.

"What would have been the best possible is if both could have gone to districts," St. Joe coach Greg Kohler said of his top players.

Giants finish 7th at sectional golf event

MANSFIELD — Fremont Ross finished tied for seventh out of 11 teams Friday at the Division I sectional golf tournament at Westbrook Country Club.

The top three teams and top three individuals not on qualifying teams advanced to next Friday's district tournament at Country Acres Golf Course in Kalida.

Ashland, which won the sectional with a 297, advanced along with runner-up Findlay (330) and Lexington (333).

Bellevue shot 346 to finish fourth, and Ross shot 353 to tie Mansfield Madison for seventh place.

The Little Giants' **Troy Ritchie**, who shot an 83 in regulation, qualified for a six-man playoff to see who would advance to the district as an individual.

Ritchie's drive on the first playoff hole traveled 285 yards but ended up about 5 yards off the fairway. While looking for the ball, Ritchie stepped on his ball and was assessed a two-stroke penalty.

Ian Steinert shot an 89 for Ross followed by teammates **Mark Walter** (90), **Mack Cole** (91) and **Jay Farrell** (92).

At Toledo's Detwiler Park, Genoa defended its Div. II sectional title with a 303. Lakota's Trent Tucker shot a 77 and will advance to Friday's district meet as an individual. Clyde, led by Brett Newsome's 83, finished sixth at the meet, Lakota seventh, Oak Harbor ninth and Margaretta 11th.