

2005 District Tournament...

Aseltine can ace state

By MATTHEW HORN
Sports Writer

Andrew Aseltine of Fremont Ross finished a round above par only three times this season.

And the senior will carry his remarkable consistency all the way to the state tournament for the second consecutive year. The state event is Friday and Saturday at The Players Club at Foxfire Golf Club in Lockbourne.

Aseltine birdied the final four holes and carded a 1-over 73 to finish third individually at the district tournament at Red Hawk Golf Course on Thursday. The Little Giants advanced to state as a team last year and Aseltine wound up 11th as an individual.

And Ross assistant coach Karl Schabel said Aseltine is a better player this season.

"He's a couple strokes better than last year's average," Schabel said. "He won medalist in pretty much every tournament we were in. He's improved in every area. His short game is phenomenal. He's a great putter — that's probably his biggest strength."

"If he doesn't win, I think he'll place in the top five. I think he can win and that's what I'm hoping to see. He's worked his butt off all year to get there and he deserves it."

Aseltine averaged 69.6 strokes per round this season.

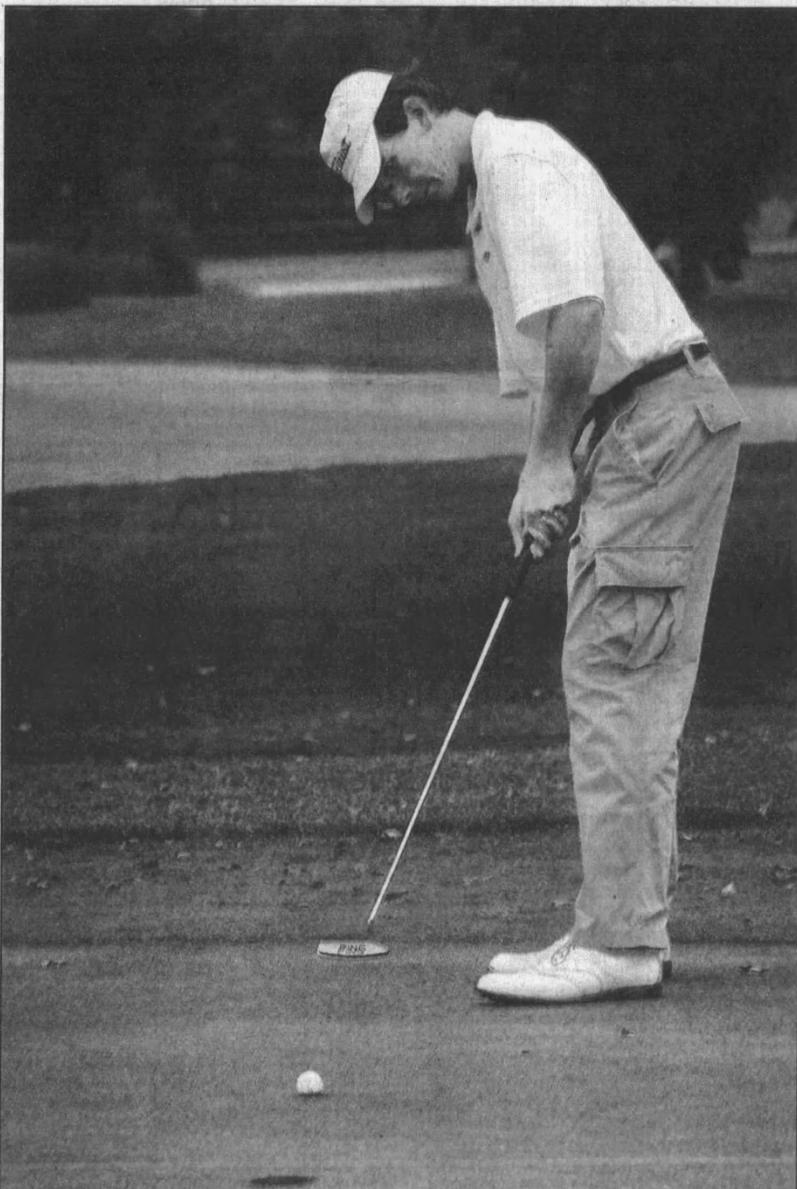
"He's stayed focused and got the job done," Schabel said. "He does what he has to do. He's very calculating. He can dissect a golf course. He can visualize what he needs to do and get out of trouble."

After helping the Little Giants return to state for the first time since 1973 last season, Aseltine's mind set is a little different this year, as he will only have himself to consider.

"I think this year is a little more about business," he said of not being part of a Little Giant faction. "I want to go down there and do well. This year I only have myself to think about. I don't have the team to worry about."

Aseltine believes last year's experience will be a benefit, although the event will be played at Foxfire rather than Ohio State.

"I've had a little more experience and I know what to expect," he said. "I know where the scores will be. Confidence-wise, it's pretty high going down there."



News Messenger/Vince Guerrill

ROSS GOLFER Andrew Aseltine puts on the ninth green at the Fremont Country Club. Aseltine was practicing Monday for the state golf tournament, this Friday and Saturday at Foxfire Golf Club in Lockbourne.

"The biggest benefit is knowing what to expect. The first year down we had no idea what the scores would be like and who would be there. I know what the scores will be like and who will be there. I should be pretty prepared. I know how difficult the course will be and that scores will probably be higher than they are for normal conditions. I

know what I need to shoot to do well."

Aseltine will use last year's finish as motivation.

"I think I need to," he said. "If I can build on that a little — I know I want to do better than last year so it's something that I've thought about. You always want to do better than you did in the past."

Aseltine is anticipating poor

conditions.

"I expect it to be fairly windy and cool compared to during the season — it's the end of October," he said. "I'm expecting conditions to be less than favorable. Bad conditions don't help anybody, but they won't hurt me as much as they will other people."

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Aseltine is ready for state

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Aseltine played at Foxfire over the summer.

"It can be brutal," he said. "It's a lot different than Scarlet and Gray. Both are equal scoring-wise but if it's cold and the wind is blowing this year's course will be hard. You have to be very accurate on half the holes with the tree lines and the other half are wide open

with water everywhere. If you're not hitting perfect shots, it will make scoring very hard."

But Schabel expects Aseltine will be able to handle the scenario.

"He knows what's going on," he said. "He'll be more comfortable at the big show. He's got last year's experience and shouldn't be as nervous. He's got the mental capability and definitely the golf game to do it."

It being win state.