











## HIGH SCHOOLS

# Cool Style Serves Clasper Well

## Wootton Senior Aims for 2nd State Golf Title, Team Honors

By KATHY ORTON

Special to The Washington Post

Even those who know Erin Clasper best have a difficult time gauging her performance during a golf match.

She refrains from hinting how her round is going—not a frown or even a slight smile. Whether 10 strokes up or 10 strokes back, she rarely displays any emotion. And that cool, calm demeanor has served her game well.

Clasper, a 17-year-old senior at Wootton High School in Rockville and the only girl on the boys' team, is one of the top high school girl golfers in Maryland. Last year, the all-Met performer won the state girls championship by 13 strokes and helped the Patriots earn consecutive Class 4A/3A state team titles.

"Her strong suit is her disposition," Wootton golf coach Jack Weiland said. "Her golf management is excellent. Erin makes very few mental errors on the golf course. She goes on to the next hole and doesn't let the last hole affect her."

Clasper followed up a successful 1997 high school season with an impressive summer showing. She took to the junior golf circuit, playing in tournaments in New York, North Carolina and Virginia. At the American Junior Golf Association JNH Marsh & McLennan Apawamis Junior tournament held last month in Rye, N.Y., Clasper finished fifth with a three-day total of 245.

In her win at the Bobby Bowers match-play tournament in July at



BY JOEL RICHARDSON—THE WASHINGTON POST

**Wootton's Erin Clasper is defending her title as girls state champion.**

the Springfield Golf & Country Club, none of Clasper's four matches went past the 16th hole.

With each showing, Clasper's confidence in her game grows.

"I think she's just starting to realize how good she can be," said her father, Geoff Clasper.

Geoff Clasper, also an avid golfer, started his daughter in the sport. She joined the junior golf program at Congressional Country Club when she was 10. Her younger sister, who is also on the Wootton team, and brother complete a family foursome.

"You never play perfect," said Clasper, describing what she liked about golf. "There's always one shot you could have done better. You never shoot that perfect score. You can always do better."

Clasper's strength is her short game, chipping and putting.

"If I get into trouble, I'm not going to blow it," she said. "I'm going to think I can still make par. I can get up and down."

Clasper continued to play this past winter, taking lessons at a heated indoor range. This summer, she estimates there were only two or three days when she wasn't out on the golf course.

"She loves to practice," Geoff Clasper said. "She will hit balls literally all day."

Clasper hopes to earn a golf scholarship to college next year. Her school of choice is the College of Charleston in South Carolina.

Meanwhile, her more immediate goal is helping Wootton become state champions for the third straight year. Clasper also hopes to successfully defend her individual title. With another strong showing at the state tournament, she has the chance to finish in the top 10 for the fourth year in a row. She was ninth her freshman year and third her sophomore year.

Of course, no one will have any idea until the scores are posted how Clasper did. Her placid composure will keep everyone guessing.

"You have to remain low key if you're playing really well," Clasper said. "You don't want to go and think you're playing really well, then, sure enough, you hit a bad shot. Then you're like, 'Oh my gosh.' You get this negative attitude and then you play worse. You just have to stay the same the whole time."





Kathy Barely  
Our wonderful Prize Chairman  
1996 - 1998 /

W.D.C. G. A. Cup  
won by  
Priscilla Ro  
@ Washington Golf C.C. June, 1997

9-Hole Winner  
Donna Barely  
↓





Presidents Cup  
won by  
Jessica Lewis  
@  
Columbia Country Club  
Aug 13 '97



9-Hole Winner  
Sarah O'Neil  
(1st Row, Center)





Presented by  
Carolyn Willis



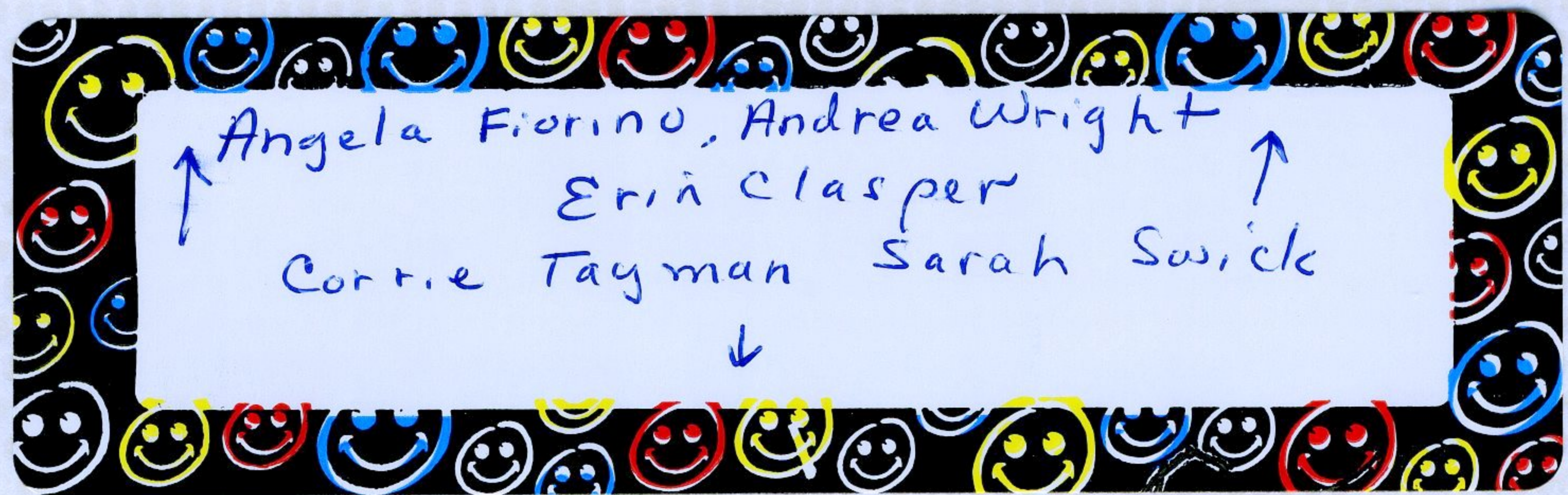
Fred Schwarz Memorial  
won by  
Andrea Wright  
at Vernon Country Club '97

9-Hole Winner  
Katie Broom

Sarah O'Neil Jennifer Wright  
Katie Broom, Donna Barely, Julie Clasper









9-Hole Winner  
Cathy Wilkenson



Morris B Fell Cup  
won by  
Courtenay Barley

@ Army Navy C.C. July 21, 1997

Angela Fiorino, Courtenay, Kari Evans







WD C & A Championship  
won by  
Jackie Beers  
@ Belle Haven C.C. June 24, 1997







W.D.C. G.A. Championship  
 9-Hole Winner  
 Julie Clasper  
 Cup presenter- Mimi Bernstein  
 Lauren Avery, Julie, Christina Norair,  
 Sarah O'Neil, Theresa Martin, Lizzy  
 Internicola  
 ↓







Helen Goldstein Memorial  
won by  
Erin Clasper  
Cup presented by Steve Goldstein





**PRETTY, PRETTY**—Comely 17-year-old Barbara Berry of Congressional fondles a bouquet that was part of her spoils in winning the District Junior Girls golf championship yesterday on her home course.—Star Staff Photo.

## Barbara Berry Repeats As D.C. Girls' Golf Champ

Wiffy Cox can't remember a golfer who has accomplished more in a relatively short time than Barbara Berry, who yesterday repeated as the District junior girls' champion.

Cox started teaching Barbara three years ago. Because of a full schedule at Mount Vernon Seminary, the 17-year-old junior golfer plays little if any from September through May. But she has shown tremendous improvement each year just playing in the summer months.

Barbara had one poor nine in the 54-hole tournament, the first nine yesterday when she had 45 with a lost ball on the ninth. But she came back in 39 and for the three rounds had 79-79-84 for 242 at her home Congressional Club.

Barbara has a good physique for golf, has the interest, and Wiffy says there's no limit to how far she can go. She has one more year at Mount Vernon

Seminary and has applied for admission to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where there's a golf course on the campus.

Barbara Diggs of Manor was runnerup with 81-81-85 for 247, and Eileen Myers of Court House was third with 89-83-84—256.

The show-stealer of the tournament was 13-year-old Mary McCahon of Court House. She's a cute youngster with pigtailed and doesn't weigh more than her golf bag. She won Class C with 113-112-107 for 332, was low by 36 strokes in her class, and that 107 yesterday was a remarkable round for a girl golfer that age. Barbara McGuinness of Prince Georges and Joan Edwards of Belle Haven were next in Class C with 368 and 381 totals.

The Class B winner was Robbye King of Army Navy, 102-111-111 for 324. Lyon Hildebrand of Kenwood was next with 360 and Janice Dunn of Kenwood third, 363.