

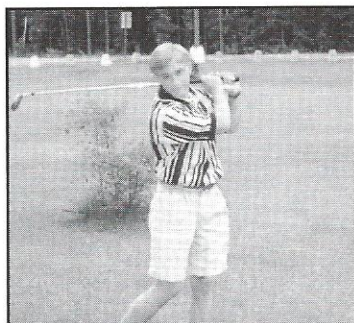
Shootin' the Birdies

Golf Team Captures Fourth Region Title

The golf team came off its most successful season last year in hopes of four-peating as conference champions. After placing third in the state tournament, the Bulldogs had high hopes of winning the elusive state title.

The Bulldogs kicked their season off with the inaugural Jimmy Self High School Tournament at Coosaw Creek Country Club with a respectable 633 — 4th place finish. The team then traveled to Columbus, Georgia, for the biggest high school golf tournament in the country — The Hardaway Invitational. After three solid rounds from Justin Ulrich (72), Christian Helland (73), and Rob Simmons (73), the Dogs took the lead by five strokes over host team Hardaway High School. The team then went on to win the tournament by two strokes over UMS-Wright of Mobile, Alabama.

"That was the best the team has played," said golf coach, Denver Cromer, "and to play that well two days in row is unbelievable."



Swing! Justin Ulrich practices before leaving for the Hardaway Invitational in Columbus, Georgia.

Christian Helland, a foreign exchange student from Norway, was the low man for the team in the Hardaway Invitational and was also selected to the All-Conference team. Helland played a major role in the golf team's success.

The 1996 region tournament was played at Snee Farm Country Club and hosted by Wando High School. Walterboro won by 36 strokes over

Wando. Rob Simmons captured the individual title and was selected to the All-Conference team along with Alex Pournelle and Christian Helland. Justin Ulrich, Jesse Smith, and Michael Berry also played in the region tournament. Walterboro's win propelled the team to the state tournament at Furman University Golf Club.

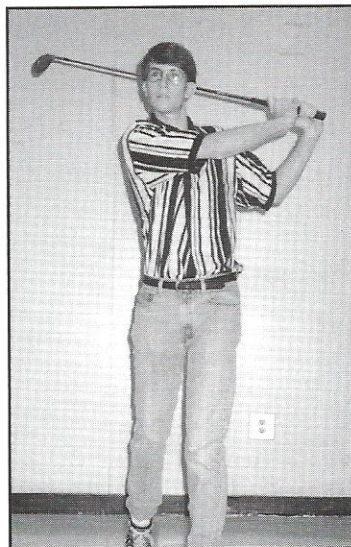
The state tournament was dominated by Spartanburg High School. Walterboro shot 916 which was good enough for third for the second consecutive year. The Bulldogs' score was only two strokes off the record for the tournament, but Spartanburg and South Aiken shot record rounds on the way to taking first and second places respectively.

"We played really well for three straight rounds but were beaten by two great teams," said Rob Simmons. Simmons played number one on the golf team and was selected to the All-Conference and All-State.

— Rob Simmons



Back Row: Justin Ulrich, Rob Simmons, Christian Helland, Alex Pournelle, Head Coach Denver Cromer. Front Row: Micheal Berry, Jesse Smith.



I'll Get it Right. Alex Pournelle follows through after practicing his swing in the team's video room. The golf team used computers throughout the year to help correct swing flaws.