



Chaminade-Julienne golfer Dorian Vauls of Clayton signs a national letter of intent to play golf at Tennessee State University. Contributed photo

C-J golfer to play for Tennessee State

The Clayton resident was the Greater Catholic League North Division player of the year.

By Dave Long
Staff Writer

DAYTON — As the PGA commercial says, "Always listen to your local (golf) pro."

Tennessee State University golf coach Chip Taylor took that advice. The result will be the addition of Chaminade-Julienne's Dorian Vauls, a first-team pick on the Division II All-Ohio team, to the TSU roster next fall.

Vauls, a Clayton resident, finished third last fall in the D-II state high school golf tournament with a 66-74-140 total. That 66 on Ohio State's Scarlet course gave him the first-round lead.

He signed a national let-

ter-of-intent for a full athlete scholarship with the Nashville, Tenn., school on April 7. He had been considering other historically black colleges, including Hampton (Va.) University, Grambling (La.) and Alabama State. Tennessee State is an NCAA Division I school and member of the Ohio Valley Conference.

Vauls was the Greater Catholic League North Division player of the year and the Dayton D-II sectional champion. He averaged 36.2 strokes per nine holes in the fall. Last summer, he played well in numerous junior tournaments and qualified for the U.S. Junior Amateur tournament.

"My dream had always been to play for Ohio State, but I didn't have a real good junior year so that wasn't going to happen," Vauls said. "I was little disappointed because I didn't get much interest from

local schools after I had a pretty strong senior year. That's when I started to look at schools out of state."

Taylor is in his first year as head coach at Tennessee State, which has five players on the roster. He got a call from a pro from one of the area courses telling him Vauls had not signed.

"Coach Taylor won't tell us who the pro was, but I want to thank whoever it was," said Dorian's father, James. "He just saved me a lot of money because Dorian is on a full ride. Most schools only give golfers a quarter or half a scholarship."

Vauls was first contacted by Taylor via e-mail over the winter.

"I knew about Tennessee State because a lot of people we know are graduates of the school," Vauls said. "Coach Taylor (a club pro in Nashville) explained how he wants

to upgrade the school's program and felt I could be a key player in doing that.

"I visited the school and liked everything about it and felt like it would be a good fit."

Vauls plans to break in a newly purchased set of clubs playing in as many area tournaments as possible this spring and summer. His hope is to qualify for the U.S. Amateur. He also continues to work with his golf teacher, Kevin Jones, at Next Level Golf in Waynesville, and help Bob Wiley and Turk Taylor of the Dayton Junior Golf Academy with youth lessons and tournaments.

"Mr. Wiley and Mr. Taylor taught me the basics when I was a little kid and have been there all the way," Vauls said. "I owe them a lot."

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