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After having last year taken away because of the pandemic, Wheatmore High School's golf team had a score to settle, so to speak. And settle it they did Monday at Foxfire Resort and Golf Club by capturing the state 2-A Mideast Regional team championship.

Led by the quartet of senior Brodie Perry (2nd place overall, 1-over-par 73), sophomore Ryan Baynard (tied for ninth, 13-over-par 85), senior Jacob Wright (tied for 12th, 16-over-par 88) and senior Wes Hodgkin (tied for 14th, 18-over-par 90), the Warriors finished with a team total of 337 to defeat second-place Roanoke Rapids by six strokes.

While Wheatmore qualified as a team, Eastern Randolph High School's Connor Carter placed first individually after firing a 1-over-par 73, besting WHS' Perry by one stroke.

Randleman High School's Austin Rickard placed third overall with a 79 to qualify individually as Randolph County will be well represented in the one-round state 2-A championship meet, which will be held Monday at Pinehurst No. 6.

"I have some really good players, I really just drive the bus," WHS golf coach Pete Kilcullen said after guiding the Warriors to their third straight Piedmont Athletic Conference title. "It was kind of a culmination of four years for the seniors. Our goals since last year were taken away from us because of the pandemic. Our goals this year were to win the conference, win the conference tournament and win regionals. They accomplished that and now there is one more big stage to show up for."

The Warriors were certainly the team to beat in the PAC when the season began, but with as many changes and obstacles each high school team faced this season, achieving their goals is certainly a big accomplishment.

"The celebration afterward was great," Kilcullen said. "To qualify as a team is great. Yes, golf is an individual game and you want to shoot well, but these kids pick each other up. If one isn't playing well, someone else picks him up."

The Warriors had five players participate in the regionals with Hunter Marshall finishing tied for 24th. However, when the state tournament is held Monday, only four golfers will compete, meaning every score counts.

"I think that does change things," Kilcullen said. "When you're playing five kids and one has a bad day, you just chalk it up to having a bad day and someone picks him up. For the state

tournament, they know they have to perform up to their ability and every shot will matter."

The Warriors, who finished second in the 2019 regional tournament, won this year's title while missing the services of No. 2 golfer Gavin Dennis, who missed regionals due to Covid protocols.

"The kids just stepped up," Kilcullen said.

That they did.