

# THE INDEX-JOURNAL

Sports

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## 1998 Emerald Golf Team To Get Rings

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One of Emerald High School's state championship-winning athletic teams will finally get some long-deserved recognition tonight at Frank Hill Stadium.

From 1998-2000, the Vikings' boys golf team won three straight Class AA state championships, but only the final two received championship rings. Prior to the football team's state title in 1998, Emerald teams didn't receive rings for winning titles, so for the past 10 years, the members of the Vikings' 1998 golf team have gone without tangible recognition for their accomplishment.

That will change tonight during halftime of the Vikings' homecoming football game against Liberty, which is set to kickoff at 7:30 p.m.

During intermission, seven of the eight members of the 1998 team will be on hand to receive their long-awaited rings. "We finished first and didn't get anything except recognition," Vikings golf coach Robin Scott said.

Scott said the Emerald boys and girls golf teams set aside fundraising money each year following the 1998 title in order to eventually buy rings. The 1998 team was notable for shattering a 35-year scoring record in a state championship by tallying a total score of 588. That year's championship was also the first one to go to a sudden-death playoff.

Emerald finally won the title over Aynor when three Vikings sank birdies on the second playoff hole at the University Club in Blythewood. Five members of the team from that year went on to win at least one more title at Emerald, but the three seniors on that team, Dale Ketola Bob Thompson and Bubba Fowler, will be receiving rings for the first time Friday.

The other members of the 1998 team were Darrel Ketola, Dale Ketola's younger brother, Zach Calhoun, Thomas Self, Will Charles and Drew Marshall. All will be attending tonight's ceremony aside from Marshall, who is an assistant pro at a club in Illinois. Along with Marshall, both Ketola brothers, Thompson and Fowler are also PGA professionals.

Scott, who has seen the members of the 1998 team intermittently over the years, said the reality of them finally getting their rings has only recently set in. "They're all real excited and for those three seniors that missed out on getting rings, I'm really glad they'll finally get them," Scott said. "I think they didn't really believe that it was going to happen until we started getting them sized."