

Two-thirds of a triplet set, Cameron and Grant Rappleye lead the charge at Christian Brothers

By Quwan Spears
BEE STAFF WRITER

There is plenty of brotherly love between 15-year-old siblings Cameron and Grant Rappleye.

But pit the two freshmen – who are part of a triplet set – against each other in a golf match, and there is no love lost.

“I try to prevent Cameron from kicking my butt every week,” Grant said. “Whether we’re playing head-to-head or in different groups, I want to do better than him, and Cameron tries to do the same.”

“It’s the typical ‘Anything you can do, I can do better’ mentality.”

The boys golf team at Christian Brothers High School is thankful for the brothers’ competitiveness.

Their play, with fellow freshman Scott Hackney, helped the Falcons (10-3 in dual matches) earn second place behind Oak Ridge at the Sierra Valley Conference tournament Monday at Sunset Whitney Country Club in Rocklin.

It was a major accomplishment for the Falcons, who graduated five seniors – including All-SVC players Giordan Jenkins, Patrick Raber and Jonathan Maniery – from last season’s team that tied Oak Ridge for second in the SVC.

Not much was expected from Christian Brothers this season.

The Rappleyes, however, have made the Falcons a force. Now they hope to shine even more in Monday’s Sac-Joaquin North Subsection tournament at Cold Springs in Placerville.

“I think the rest of the team fed off Grant and Cameron,” Falcons coach Kirk Purdy said. “Those two always want to get better, and I could see the other kids, including Scott, do the same.”

Grant was born two minutes before Cameron, who beat third brother Trevor by about one minute on March 24, 1990.

Since that time, Cameron and Grant have tried to keep pace with each other in whatever they do. Trevor, on the other hand, is an entrepreneur, making videos and digital video discs to sell.

“I kid Cameron and Grant all the time, telling them that they may be big shots now, but if they don’t make it, they can always help Trevor sweep his warehouses,” said the boys’ father, Kevin.

Golf, however, is first and foremost on Cameron’s and Grant’s



The Rappleye brothers, Cameron, above, and Grant, left, pace the Christian Brothers boys golf team as freshmen. The 15-year-old scratch golfers are two-thirds of a triplet set, with third brother Trevor focused on being an entrepreneur.

Sacramento
Bee/Andy Alfaro

mind. They are Christian Brothers’ No. 1 and 2 players, respectively, while Hackney rounds out the talented trio at No. 3.

The brothers also have good golf genes.

In 1980, Kevin Rappleye earned NCAA All-America honors at Sacramento State and had a short stint on a now-defunct pro minitour.

Kevin, though, says his sons are more talented, envisioning them surpassing his brief pro career.

“The odds of them getting that far are long,” Kevin said. “But I think the boys have the tools. But more importantly, they like to work at it. They practice a lot at Valley Hi Country Club, and it’s nothing for them to get there early and tell me to pick them up when it’s dark.”

The hard work has paid huge dividends. Kevin said his boys have gone from a 15 handicap to scratch golfers in about two years. They are building a name for themselves, as did former Christian Brothers standouts Kevin and David Sutherland.

The Rappleyes showed off their talent recently, beating Oak Ridge 181-191 at Bartley Cavanaugh. In handing the Trojans their only loss of the season, Cameron shot a 5-under-par 31 and Grant a 1-over 37 over nine holes.

Although their golfing achieve-

ments are similar, the Rappleyes are different in a variety of ways.

Grant is carefree, while Cameron is more reserved, the brothers agree. Cameron is more likely to tell his brother to buckle down during serious situations, while Grant is more charismatic.

Cameron is more likely to save his money, while Grant is more likely to flirt with a girl, they say.

On the golf course, Cameron, despite being about three inches shorter than the 5-foot-7 Grant, has a better long game, hitting the ball as far as 280 yards off the tee. Grant is a better chipper and putter.

Grant plays the game with better focus and is not easily rattled. Cameron is streakier.

Despite their differences, the Rappleyes are displaying talent beyond their years.

“What I like about them is that they are very strong mentally,” Purdy said. “That’s the thing that surprised me the most. Not only can they play golf, but also it doesn’t faze them playing against kids that are juniors and seniors.”

“They feel like they belong on the golf course with those kids and play with a lot of confidence.”

■ ■ ■

The Bee’s Quwan Spears can be reached at (916) 326-5517 or qspears@sacbee.com.

PREPS PLUS

www.sacbee.com/preps



STRIKING TWICE THE FEAR