

In 1965, Joan Johnston was teaching Health and Physical Education at Franklin County High School. She was approached by a parent about starting a golf program for girls and developing a competitive team. After deciding to accept this challenge, she soon learned the task would be formidable. Joan had only recently begun playing the game and knew very little about coaching golf. She also discovered the difficulty in getting willing participants, as a team needed a minimum of four (4) players to play in team events or matches. The 1st couple of years were a real struggle, but in 1967, two of her girls were individual qualifiers for the state tournament. Joan soon discovered the secret to a successful golf program was getting girls interested in the 4th, 5th, or 6th grades. Once the program was established, getting girls to participate was no longer a problem. In most years there were 12 to 18 girls playing and practicing the game, learning rules, and exhibiting proper etiquette on the golf course.

Over the years, the achievements grew as Joan learned and developed the coaching techniques necessary for success. Her teams won 12 regional titles, 2 state championships and had many top 5 finishes in the state tournament. There were also many individual awards with one (1) state champion as well as many medallist honors in regional tournaments and area or regional invitational tournaments. In 1997 the Franklin County Girls Golf Team had amassed a record of 127-0 in team matches with other schools. Shortly thereafter, she was selected as National Golf Coach of the Year by the National Federation of Coaches.

The most important achievements to Joan don't involve titles or personal awards. She is most proud of the many wonderful girls who played on her teams, their personal successes in life, and the lasting relationships and friendships which have endured.

1965-Started and implemented girl's golf team and program at Franklin County High School
 1967-Individuals (2) qualified for State Tournament
 1970-Regional Team 2nd place, State Tournament 12th place**
 1971-Regional Team Champions, State Tournament 14th place
 1973-Regional Team Champions, State Tournament, place not sure
 1974-Individual qualified for state tournament
 1975- Regional 2nd Place, State Tournament 13th place, Regional medalist
 1976- Regional 2nd Place, State tournament, Mid-State Champions, Individual medalist (Mid-State Conference)
 1977-Individual (2) qualified for state tournament
 1978-Individual qualified for state tournament
 1984-Individual medalist (Mid-State Conference) Mid-State Conference 3rd place
 1985-Regional 2nd Place, State Tournament 9th Place, Tates Creek Invitational 2nd Place
 1986-Regional Team Champions, Tates Creek Invitational Champions, State Tournament 6th Place
 1987-Regional Team Champions, Individual Regional Medalist, State Tournament 2nd Place, State Individual Champion, Tates Creek Invitational 2nd Place
 1988-Regional Team Champions, Individual Regional Medalist, State Tournament 2nd Place, Tates Creek Invitational Champions
 1989-Individual Regional Champion (medalist), Tates Creek Invitational medalist
 1990-Regional Team Champions (Fall), State Tournament 9th Place
 1991-Regional Team Champions, Regional medalist, State Tournament 8th Place
 1992-Regional Team Champions, State Tournament 4th Place
 1993-Regional Team Champions, Regional medalist, State Tournament 2nd place
 1994-Regional Team Champions, State Tournament 3rd Place
 1995-Regional Team Champions, STATE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS, Jessica Kell (All State Team)
 Team invited to and recognized by separate Houses of the Kentucky General Assembly
 1996-Regional Team Champions, Regional Medalist, STATE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS, Jessica Kell (All State Team) Mt. Sterling Invitational 2nd Place, Record 125-0 since Spring 1990, Team invited to and recognized by Kentucky General Assembly
 1997-Record 127-0, Regional Team Runner-up, Fuzzy Zoeller Invitational Tournament 1st Place, State Tournament 2nd Place, Named National Golf Coach of the Year by the National Federation of Coaches
 1998-North Hardin Invitational 1st Place (medalist), Gene Hilen Invitational 1st Place, Mt. Sterling Invitational 1st Place, Regional Team Champions, State Tournament 2nd Place, Undefeated In regular season play, Jessica Kell (All State Team)
 I have had two former golfers to go on and become teaching pros.

• From 1965 to 1969, number of teams in State Tournament was fewer than 10.

** From 1970 to present, number of teams in State Tournament ranged from 12 to 16, with 16 being the predominate number for the past 12-15 years.