

Kalida Linksters Win First PCL Golf Title

1978 PCL Tournament

Putnam County Sentinel

Just two Kalida golf scores were posted on the scoreboard tacked to the shed of the Bluffton Golf Course Monday, but already the remaining four teams in the Putnam County Golf Meet were becoming concerned.

Nick Stechschulte, firing a torrid 34 on the Bluffton front nine, carded a 79 for the 18-hole meet and a short while later teammate Gary VonderEmbse ambled in with 78. Those two scores put Kalida into a lead they never lost Tuesday as the Wildcats won their first ever Putnam County Golf championship. Leipsic, the defending PCL champ, followed with a second place finish, Fort Jennings edged Ottoville for third, and Continental placed fifth.

"We've been up and down all year but we finally were up when we needed it," Kalida's first year golf coach Dan Kidd stated after receiving the championship trophy. "I'm very proud of the way these young men performed under pressure. We expected to be a contender this year but never put it all together until now."

Kalida entered the county tournament with a 4-8 record, despite posting a better team average than several opponents. "We seemed to bring out the best in the opposition," Kidd stated. "I knew we had the talent and the ability because our team average was better than several of the teams we played and lost to. Four good rounds was what we needed to win the title and that's what we got, four good rounds."

VonderEmbse was the meet medalist with his 78 stroke total while Stechschulte defeated Leipsic's outstanding golfer, Doug Kindle in a sudden-death playoff for the second medalist position. Kindle also carded a 79 in the meet but bogeyed the first hole of sudden-death. Stechschulte parred the par-four first hole. Stechschulte's two-under-par 34 on the front nine established a school record for the Wildcats while the 78 medalist score by VonderEmbse was a school record for 18 holes.

Jeff Unverferth added an 88 to Kalida's total and Ken Kahle carded a 92 as the Wildcats won the meet with a team score of 337. Leipsic followed with a 341. Fort Jennings turned in a 346 team total, Ottoville a 348 and Continental a 389.

Doug Kindle, who has been the medalist in all but three of Leipsic's meets this season, paced the Vikings with a 79 while Mike Schuerman's 85 paced the Muskies of Fort Jennings. Tim Reiger fired an 84 for Ottoville's top score and Steve Weisenburger's 91 was tops for Continental.

SCORES

KALIDA 337 – Gary VonderEmbse 30-48-78, Nick Stechschulte 34-45-79, Jeff Unverferth 42-46-88, Ken Kahle 45-47-92.

LEIPSIC 341 – Doug Kindle 40-39-79, Casey Jones 42-42-84, Barry Rosebrock 45-44-89, Roger Schroeder 47-42-89.

FORT JENNINGS 346 – Mike Schuerman 42-43-85, Tim Schuerman 43-43-86, Tom VonSossan 45-45-90, Andy Eversole 46-44-90, Scott Recker 41-44-85.

OTTOVILLE 348 – Jerry Markward 44-47-91, Tim Reiger 42-42-84, Mike Miller 44-43-87, Scott Markward 43-43-86.

CONTINENTAL 389 – Steve Weisenburger 47-44-91, Brad Stover 50-45-95, Buddy Erwin 49-52-101, Kevin Bingley 49-53-102.