

Kalida Golfers End Frustration as They Dominate PCL Golf 1989 PCL Tournament

Putnam County Sentinel – Charlie Warnimont, Sports Editor

Two years of frustration ended for the Kalida golf team Monday afternoon as they finally won the Putnam County League golf championships.

And the best way to describe the win is to say they dominated the rest of the field.

In winning the PCL championship at the Delphos Country Club the Wildcats shattered two records that many coaches thought were not attainable.

First of all, Kalida had a team total of 296, breaking Ottoville's 1983 record by 13 shots (309).

Secondly medalist Jared Burgei shot a 3-under par 68, breaking 70 for the first time in the tournament's history. This unbelievable round earned him Player of the Year honors and a spot on the first team.

In winning Kalida outdistanced second place Ottoville by 30 strokes as the Big Green shot a respectable 326. Pandora-Gilboa was next at 349, Fort Jennings had a 352, Columbus Grove a 353, Miller City 358 and Continental a 376.

The past two years the Wildcats had taken strong teams into the PCL championships, but last year took a backseat to Fort Jennings on their home course and the year before Ottoville. This year Kalida finally got a chance to prove those two state championship appearances were not flukes.

"We couldn't be happier," said Kalida coach Jim Miller. "The last couple of years have been frustrating."

"Basically, the kids play up to their potential as a group. They went out and played with a lot of confidence and that was something we felt had been lacking in their play the last week."

Not only did Burgei enjoy a super day on the course hitting 15 greens but his teammates enjoyed equally good rounds.

Joining Burgei on the first team from Kalida were Jay Heckman with a 73 and Jeff Giesige with a 76. Ottoville's Jason Ricker finished second overall to Burgei with a 72 and Pandora-Gilboa's Eric Hermiller rounded out the first team with a 76.

"Jared's round speaks for itself," said Miller. "He played one super round of golf hitting 15 greens. He played very, very well."

On the second team was another player in Jeff Sager (79). He was joined by Pandora-Gilboa's Bruce Alt (82) and Ottoville's Brian Altenburger (82), John Osting of Fort Jennings (83) and Columbus Grove's Sean Griffith.

"Kalida just broke two barriers that most PCL coaches thought were unattainable," said Coach Jim Maley of Ottoville, a nine-time winner of the PCL crown.

"I don't think anyone thought those barriers were attainable. They are just that good. Today they lived up to what everyone has been saying about them. All that hard work is paying off."

The PCL championship should give Kalida a lot of confidence as they represent Northwest Ohio in the Murfield Invitational Golf tournament Saturday, a first-time event designed to bring the top eight golf teams in the state together. The event is being hosted by Dublin and Upper Arlington.

Miller feels his team should do well at the tournament since many of them have played the course before in a junior qualifying tournament this summer.

SCORES

KALIDA 296 - Jared Burgei (68), Jay Heckman (73), Jeff Giesige (76) and Jeff Sager (79).

OTTOVILLE 326 - Jason Ricker (72), Brian Altenburger (82), Chris Ricker (85) and Jason Metcalf (87).

PANDORA-GILBOA 349 - Eric Hermiller (76), Bruce Alt (82), Ron Schwab (95) and Stacy Hermiller (96).

FORT JENNINGS 352 - John Osting (83), Nate Schroeder (89), Brent Helmke (87) and Jeff Swick (93).

COLUMBUS GROVE 353 - Sean Griffith (83), Scott Allen (91), Wes Bolyard (86) and Eric Schroeder (93).

MILLER CITY 358 - Scott Niese (84), Randy Siefker (90), Mike Rosengarten (92) and Andy Layne (92).

CONTINENTAL 376 - Brian Bauer (86), Dean Williamson (96), Chad Fuller (97) and Mike Karhoff (97).