

Ottoville Wins PCL Golf Tournament

2005 PCL Tournament

Putnam County Sentinel – Charlie Warnimont, Sports Editor

Ottoville knew they had a target on their backs as the Putnam County League golf tournament was played Monday at Pike Run.

With a successful regular season behind them and a sectional championship under their belts, the Big Green knew they were the favorites heading into Monday's championship. They have had that feeling over the past couple of years, but were unable to dethrone defending champion Kalida. Early Monday evening, the Big Green finally put the wraps on that elusive PCL title.

With another solid day on the golf course Ottoville shot a 309 to win the PCL championship. Defending champion Kalida finished second with a 323, while Leipsic was third with a 361 (based on their fifth man score). Fort Jennings took fourth with a 361 and Miller City was fifth with a 374.

"We're very happy about this," Ottoville coach James Brown said holding the PCL championship plaque. "The last couple of years we felt we had a chance, but we didn't play as consistent as we did today."

"We knew we had to play very well coming in here. Kalida put up some good scores as well, but they may not have had some guys play as well. We felt the target on our backs, but these guys don't feel the pressure, they just go out and play. This group has been able to perform well when the pressures been on them."

Ottoville received a big lift from four-year letter winner and senior Nick Miller on Monday. Miller captured PCL medalist honors as he shot an even par round of 71. He was two under par after the front nine before going two over on the back nine.

"Nick has been our leader for four years now," Brown said. "We look to him for leadership and he came out early and put up a good score, which helps set the tone for the rest of the team."

"Nick really makes up for a lot of mistakes with the rest of the kids, not that the rest of the kids make a lot of mistakes. When you have someone that shoots in the low 70's it helps cancel out those scores in the mid 80's although we didn't have them today. We had solid scoring from top to bottom."

Nick Miller was three under par on the front nine before along tee shot on the par 3 ninth led to a bogey. He had a shot at the school record of 70 coming to 18, but he hit his tee shot into the water and settled for bogey on the par 5 finishing hole.

Junior Chris Looser backed up Miller with a 78 and freshman Alex Odenweller had a 79. Senior Tyler Miller had an 81 and senior Josh Vorst finished with an 82.

Nick Miller, Looser and Odenweller all received first team all-league honors, while Tyler Miller and Josh Vorst took second team honors.

Kalida pushed the Big Green as they were led by Junior Brandon Stechschulte and senior Andy Unverferth. Stechschulte led the Wildcats with a 75 and Unverferth was two shots back with a 77. The two golfers round out the five-man PCL first team.

Freshman Matt Warnecke finished with an 83 and senior Brad VonderEmbse had an 88 for the Wildcats. Warnecke was a second team all-league player.

Rounding out the PCL second team was Leipsic's Jason Crow with an 84 and Bryn Steffan with an 85 along with Miller City's Beau Pester with an 85.

Five golfers were awarded Scholar-Athlete certificates Monday for maintaining a 3.5 GPA and being a senior. Receiving awards Monday were Brad VonderEmbse and Ben McIntyre of Kalida, Trent Stechschulte of Fort Jennings, Nick Miller and Tyler Miller of Ottoville.

SCORES

OTTOVILLE 309 - Nick Miller 71, Josh Vorst 82, Tyler Miller 81, Alex Odenweller 79 and Chris Looser 78.

KALIDA 323 - Andy Unverferth 77, Ben McIntyre 90, Brad VonderEmbse 88, Brandon Stechschulte 75 and Matt Warnecke 83.

LEIPSIC 361 - Jason Crow 84, Bryn Steffan 85, Brian Steffan 97, Josh Cain 95 and Craig Meyer 98.

FORT JENNINGS 361 - Trent Stechschulte 87, Torey Bonifas 88, Nick Luebrecht 95, Tyler Louth 91 and Jordan Unrue 99.

MILLER CITY 374 - Andy Rump 86, Beau Pester 85, Kyle Hoffman 99, Kirk Meyer 106 and Scott Barlage 107.