

Ottoville Repeats as PCL Golf Champions

2006 PCL Tournament

Putnam County Sentinel – Charlie Warnimont, Sports Editor

All eyes were fixed on the scoreboard Monday as scores started to trickle in at the Putnam County League golf tournament.

Players, coaches and fans all waited anxiously as golfers finished and their scores were posted to see which team would be crowned 2006 PCL golf champions. And when the dust settled it was Ottoville that claimed the PCL championship for a second straight season.

On a sunny, but windy day, at Pike Run Golf Course, the Big Green repeated as PCL champions as they just slipped past Kalida 341-344.

Leipsic finished third in the tournament with a 352 team score followed by Miller City with a 366 and Fort Jennings with a 409.

Leipsic's Jason Crow grabbed medalist honors as he shot an even par round of 71. There only two scores in the 70's Monday as Miller City's Andy Rump was the runner-up medalist with a 78.

"Unbelievable," Ottoville coach Jim Brown said afterwards. "Boy to come out with a victory today is something to be proud of. We know we golf a little better, but that wind just evened the field and kept us watching the scoreboard all day."

"Shooting a 341 won't get it done most days in the PCL, but the conditions just played havoc with the scores. It wasn't just driving the ball, but even putting the ball. It was tough out there and to grind something like this is great."

Even though golfers were greeted with bright sunshine Monday, they had to battle a stiff wind that kicked up shortly after the players started to tee off. The wind was especially difficult for the golfers on the west side of the course which is more open than the east side of the course.

However, the Big Green was able to handle the wind as they posted four scores in the 80's for the win.

Sophomore Alex Odenweller led the Big Green with an 82, senior Nick Rue followed with an 85, while senior Chris Looser and freshman Jordan Schimmoeller both came in with 87's. Sophomore Troy Markward had a 94.

"Jordan Schimmoeller, our five-man today, was talking about his back hurting today, but shot an 87," Brown said. "That's a lot like him. He just gutted things out."

"But the rest of the guys on a tough day today just played well in this wind. To grind something out and hopefully these kids have learned that every stroke is important. And it really paid off today to do that."

"I've been here four years and this is a repeat for me. It's not me, though, it's the kids that come out and work hard in the summer. We've been peaking and I was hoping they didn't leave it out here too early, that we save some for October. And I have been playing some young kinds that are picking up some valuable experience."

Despite the win, the Big Green placed just one player on the first team in Odenweller. Rue, Looser and Schimmoeller all were second team award winners.

While the Big Green was repeating, Leipsic's Crow was winning PCL medalist honors for the second time as he also won it as a sophomore.

Crow shot an even par round of 71 Monday as he eagled the 18th hole to be right at par. Coming off a

disappointing round at the Blanchard Valley Conference meet Wednesday, the Viking senior was pleased with the round.

"After that last round Monday, I just tried to play solid overall to give a good feeling going in the sectionals Thursday," Crow said. "I did and I have a pretty good feeling going into sectional."

"I got off to a pretty good start today, struggled some in the middle, and then finished strong. It was good enough. To finish with an eagle made the whole day feel better as I was struggling towards the end."

Like all the golfers Crow had to battle the windy conditions. He credited his driving for helping him out on Monday.

"I was hitting my driver really good," Crow added. "I was keeping the ball in play which was something I hadn't been doing well lately. The conditions were tough out there. You'd hit a good shot and it just wasn't even close. That's how it's some times."

Kalida placed three player on the first team as they were led by senior Brandon Stechschulte with an 83, while sophomore Matt Warnecke and Cody Buss, both had an 84. Brent Heitmeyer finished with a 93 for the Wildcats and Tyler Verhoff had a 94.

Miller City's Andy Rump grabbed the final first team spot with a 78. His teammate Beau Pester was a second team selection with a 91.

Leipsic's Bryn Steffan also grabbed second team honors with an 87.

Fort Jennings Troy Warnecke, Leipsic's Allison Bryan and Joshua Cain and Ottoville's Chris Looser were named all-academic in the PCL.

SCORES

OTTOVILLE 341 - Alex Odenweller 82, Nick Rue 85, Chris Looser 87, Jordan Schimmoeller 87 and Troy Markward 94.

KALDIA 344 - Brandon Stechschulte 83, Matt Warnecke 84, Cody Buss 84, Brent Heitmeyer 93 and Tyler Verhoff 94.

LEIPSIC 352 - Jason Crow 71, Bryn Steffan 87, Josh Cain 93, Craig Meyer 101 and Nathan Maag 109.

MILLER CITY 366 - Andy Rump 78, Beau Pester 91, Kirk Meyer 98, Kyle Hoffman 99 and Scott Barlage 106.

FORT JENNINGS 409 - Brandon Good 97, Tyler Louth 97, Jordan Unrue 97, Cody Bonifas 118 and Troy Warnecke 122.