

Kalida Wins 2012 PCL Golf Tournament

Putnam County Sentinel – Charlie Warnimont, Sports Editor – September 26, 2012

DELPHOS – There were some anxious moments for the Kalida and Ottoville golf teams as they waited for their fifth golfers to finish their rounds Monday.

With four scores posted the Wildcats had a one shot lead on the Big Green. When those fifth scores were posted the Wildcat golfers could start to celebrate a Putnam County League championship.

Kalida won the PCL golf championship by shooting a 326 at the Delphos Country Club as Ottoville finished second with a 332. It was the Wildcats first PCL championship since the 2007 season.

Columbus Grove finished third with a 373 followed by Leipsic with a 383, Fort Jennings had a 384 and Miller City had a 394.

On September 15, Kalida won the Delphos Country Club Invitational shooting a 309. However, a stiff wind and fast greens had the course playing much tougher on Monday that inflated the scores as no golfer broke 80 during their round. The title came down to which golfers could endure the conditions the best and that was Kalida as they had three scores of 81 that helped them to the title.

“I didn’t think it was that bad today, but I guess the conditions were a little worse than I thought they were,” Kalida coach Ken Schnipke said. “The wind was playing havoc and with all the trees the wind was swirling around making it pretty tough. I felt there would be four or five guys that would be in the 70’s today. It was pretty tough out there for them and the greens were so fast. The course was in immaculate shape, but with the greens as fast as they were and the wind it played harder.”

The key to Kalida winning their first title in five seasons was the play of fifth man Brady Mathew. Playing in one of the final groups of the day, Mathew kept his composure to shoot an 81 that matched teammates Cody Mathew and Austin Horstman. Neil Recker finished with an 83 to round out Kalida’s scoring. Zach Erhart had an 86 for the Wildcats on the day.

“There was some nail-biting today waiting for that final score to come in. I’m going to have a talk with them about that,” Schnipke joked. “I was hoping we would shoot better than we did, but that is gold, you never know. I know we have one or two boys that felt they could have played better. Ottoville gave us a good run. I hope this is a learning experience for us going into the sectional. You have to go out, stay relaxed and play. We might have been a little tight at the beginning and that has been a concern as we have played rough at the beginning of rounds. Like today the second nines were better than the first nines.”

Cody Mathew, Horstman and Brady Mathew all earned first team PCL honors for their play. Recker and Erhart picked up second team honors.

Ottoville was led by senior Zach Weber as he shared medalist honors with Miller City’s Jared Fuka as both golfers finished with an 80. Weber shot a 38 - 42 to finish with an 80 and become the first four time PCL medalist.

“Zach has been struggling hitting the ball and Friday we saw something in his stance and we helped him with that,” Brown said. “He practiced it and came out and said he felt better. He went out and really shot well today in some pretty tough conditions. The wind was blowing and the greens were fast and Zach really played well to become a four-time PCL medalist. That is nothing to shake your hat at.”

Backing up Weber were Derek Schimmoeller and Wesley Markward with 82s and Craig Odenweller had an 88. Weber was a first team all-league selection, while Markward and Schimmoeller were second team picks.

“I was pretty happy with the boys,” Brown said. Kalida has played awfully well all year and came in here and played well. We didn’t give them our A game, but we battled them down to the end. We had it within one and Brady Mathew came in with an 81. You could see our kids’ faces that they were disappointed with what happened.”

Fuka was consistent in his round of 80 shooting a 40 on the front and a 40 on the back nine. His score helped him to first team honors in the PCL.

“Jared has been a consistent golfer for us all year,” Miller City coach Dusty Pester said. “He keeps his composure on the course better than any player I have coached. With the wind today, he battled and played one shot at a time. He is very deserving of the co-medalist award.”

Leipsic’s Jason Niese earned second team honors with an 87 and Columbus Grove’s Jacob Roebke was a second team selection as he finished with 87.

Miller City’s Cody Sheets excited the crowd Monday as he finished his round a hole in one on the Par 3, 186 yard ninth hole. Sheets was surprised by the ace as he saw the bounce on the green and roll towards the cup before disappearing into the cup.

SCORES

KALIDA 326 – Cody Mathew 81, Austin Horstman 81, Brady Mathew 81, Neil Recker 83 and Zach Erhart 86.

OTTOVILLE 332 – Zach Weber 80, Derek Schimmoeller 82, Wesley Markward 82, Craig Odenweller 88 and Logan Kortokrax 93.

COLUMBUS GROVE 373 – Jacob Roebke 87, Clay Diller 93, Kody Griffith 95, Logan Diller 98 and Brandon Hoffman 100.

LEIPSIC 383 – Jason Niese 87, John Ellerbrock 92, Neil Horstman 100. Logan Selhorst 104 and Alex Ellerbrock 108.

FORT JENNINGS 384 – Kurt Warnecke 91, Nate German 95, Josh Wittler 98, Lucas Luebrecht 100 and Nick VonSossan 112.

MILLER CITY 394 – Jared Fuka 80, Austin Lammers 95, Cody Sheets 105, Liz Schimmoeller 114 and Devin Hoellrich 114.