

Recker Leads Kalida to 2019 PCL Golf Championship

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OTTAWA – Kalida’s golf team knew they were the favorites heading into the Putnam County League Tournament Monday at the Moose Landing Country Club.

Being the favorite may have put a little pressure on the players as they tackled windy conditions at the course. Although the Wildcats may have had a rocky start to their rounds, they rebounded well to claim another PCL championship.

Kalida repeated as league champions as they shot a 333 to outdistance runner-up Leipsic, who finished with a 371. Columbus Grove finished third with a 378, Ottoville had a 393, Miller City a 402 and Fort Jennings had a 446.

Having won the league tournament and regular season title, the Wildcats were the overall PCL champions.

Kalida golf coach Ken Schnipke was pleased with his teams score, although he was hoping his team could get under 330 for the tournament as they were playing on their home course.

“A 333 isn’t bad considering how windy it was. I was hoping we would break 330 and shoot in the 320’s,” Schnipke said. “I don’t know if we had some nerves at the beginning, because we played a lot better on the second nine than we did the first. I guess you could say its nerves, but a 333 is not too bad.”

Senior Josh Recker paced the Wildcats Monday with a 76 (40-36) as he was the tournament medalist. Recker was the only player on the day to shoot in the 70s for his 18 holes.

Columbus Grove’s Owen Macke posted the second-best score of the day shooting an 80 (38-42) for his round.

Junior Ryan Klausing backed up Recker with an 81 (41-40), while senior Grace Miller finished with an 86 (41-45) and senior David Peck had a 90 (45-45). Alec Edelbrock had a 91 for Kalida and Justin Siebeneck finished with a 97 for their rounds.

“Josh Recker finished with a 76 as he had the only score in the 70s,” Schnipke said. “That was a really good score. That was big for us. Ryan played well and Grace played really well shooting an 86 from the sixth spot. That was probably as good as Josh shooting a 76. She had a good round not shooting anything worse than a bogey for a good third score for us.”

Having been named the tournament medalist helped Recker be named the PCL Player of the Year as he edged Klausing

for the top spot by 2½ points. Peck was the third Kalida player to earn first team honors for the season. “Josh had a slow start to the season coming out of summer baseball,” Schnipke said. “The last two weeks he has been playing a lot better. Hopefully we have figured his driver out some as he’s keeping it more in play and he hits it so far, he has a lot of different options he can hit off the tee. A 76 today was a really good score.”

Ottoville’s Carter Schnipke earned first team honors for the season along with Leipsic’s Mason Brandt and Mason Tadena.

Leipsic coach Kevin Brandt was named the PCL Coach of the Year by his peers for guiding the Viking to a runner-up finish at the tournament and for the season. The Vikings were 4-1 during the regular season in the PCL.

Tadena led the Vikings Monday with an 87, while Brandt had a 91, Jaden Siefker a 94 and Eli Wueller finished with a 99.

The PCL second team consisted of T. J. Michel of Miller City, Dru Hilvers of Ottoville, Alec Edelbrock and Justin Siebeneck of Kalida, Owen Macke of Columbus Grove and Jaden Siefker of Leipsic.

Team Standing

(1) Kalida (333) Josh Recker, 76. Ryan Klausing, 81. Grace Miller, 86. David Peck, 90. Alec Edelbrock, 91. Justin Siebeneck, 97.

(2) Leipsic (371) Mason Tadena 87. Mason Brandt 91. Jaden Siefker, 94. Eli Wueller, 99. Brock Lammers, 100. Alex Gerdeman, 114.

(3) Columbus Grove (378) Owen Macke, 80. Nick Wolverton, 98. Noah Macke, 99. Austin Macke, 101. Brayden Keck, 114. Gabe Hardeman, 123.

(4) Ottoville (393) Carter Schnipke, 92. Dru Hilvers, 95. Evan Turnwald, 102. Jack Langhals, 104. Chad Schnipke, 126.

(5) Miller City (402) Connor Niese, 96. Dillon Peck, 97. T. J. Michel, 98. Tom Weis, 111. Caleb Niese, 114. Isabelle Vance, 118.

(6) Fort Jennings (446) Aiden Grothouse, 98. Logan Schimmoeller, 107. Joe Klir, 120. Gavin Schimmoeller, 121. Noah Wittler, 124. Tom Calvelage, 139.

Scholar Athletes – Grace Miller from Kalida. Brock Lammers, Ben Haselman, Morgan Kamphaus and Mason Tadena from Leipsic.