

Kalida Wins Tie-Breaker to Win Ninth Straight PCL Title in 2020

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DELPHOS – Kalida went into the Putnam County League golf tournament Monday looking to continue their recent run of league titles.

Extending that streak wasn't easy as late afternoon rain and wind at the Delphos Country Club, not to mention an Ottoville team that was playing on their home course, made for an interesting day. Once the rounds were completed the Wildcats needed their fifth man score to win another PCL title.

Kalida and Ottoville finished the PCL tournament at 348 before the Wildcats claimed their ninth straight championship as their fifth man shot a 92 and Ottoville's had a 94. Pandora-Gilboa finished third with a 360 as they were playing their first PCL tournament in several years after bringing back the program two years ago. Columbus Grove was fourth at 373, Leipsic had a 385 for fifth, Miller City had a 391 and Fort Jennings a 445.

With the tournament win and their 6 – 0 regular season finish the Wildcats were the outright PCL champions while the Big Green were second and the Rockets third.

"I'm sure the weather did play a lot into it," Kalida coach Ken Schnipke said of the high scores. "It started a little cool, then the rain and wind moved in and made it a lot tougher. We didn't help ourselves hitting balls out of bounds and into the water. I don't think the weather had a lot to do with that and I was a little disappointed."

"You look at the scores and there's only one score in the 70's and there are half a dozen other players here that can shoot in the 70's. It was rough, but sometimes we make things rough on ourselves."

Junior Ryan Klausung led the Wildcats with an 80 as he was followed by Justin Siebeneck with an 86, Ethan Warnecke a 90 and Kayla Nartker a 92. Drew Buss was the Wildcats fifth score at 92.

Klausung was named the PCL Player of the Year based on his regular season point totals and his tournament finish, which saw him in second place.

"Ryan has been great this year," Schnipke said. "At the start of the season he just picked it up another notch. He shot 80 today, which is his highest score of the season. It's a team thing but when you have someone that can shoot a 73 or 74, it helps out a lot. He's a junior and we'll see if he can take it up another notch next year."

Klausung said his excellent year is the result of a lot of hard work in the off season.

"I played in tournaments every single week and worked with my Dad a lot. I think I have lowered my average three or four strokes from last year," Klausung said. "The front nine wasn't bad, but once we made the turn and the rain started coming down and the wind picked up it was tough. At the beginning of the year we set our goals and the first one is always to win the PCL. I know when I walked off the 18th green at state, I was excited to get back to

work and I knew I was going to have to lead after losing three really good seniors."

Ottoville's Carter Schnipke was the tournament medalist shooting a 76, the only player to shoot under 80 Monday. Michael Turnwald and Jack Langhals both had an 89, while Dru Hilvers and Keaton Schnipke both had a 94.

Klausung headlined a PCL first team that included Mason Brandt from Leipsic, Blake Steiner from P-G, Carter Schnipke from Ottoville, Justin Siebeneck from Kalida, and T.J. Michel from Miller City. The second team consisted of Eli Huffman from P-G, Michael Turnwald and Jack Langhals from Ottoville, Noah Macke from Columbus Grove, Kayla Nartker from Kalida and Jaden Siefker from Leipsic.

Kalida's Ken Schnipke was named the PCL Coach of the Year.

Team Standing

(1) Kalida (348) Ryan Klausung, 80. Justin Siebeneck, 86. Ethan Warnecke, 90. Kayla Nartker, 92. Drew Buss, 92. Brandt Brinkman, 100.

(2) Ottoville (348) Carter Schnipke, 76. Jack Langhals, 89. Michael Turnwald, 89. Dru Hilvers, 94. Keaton Schnipke, 94. Grant Leis, 108.

(3) Pandora-Gilboa (360) Blake Steiner, 82. Eli Huffman, 91. Jacob Suter, 93. Grant Farthing, 94. Sam Norton, 96. Trey Hovest, 98.

(4) Columbus Grove (373) Noah Macke, 89. Nick Wolverton, 92. Isaac Ricker, 96. Brayden Keck, 96. Taylor Schroeder, 101. Gabe Hardeman, 103.

(5) Leipsic (385) Mason Brandt, 85. Jaden Siefker, 95. Luke Spoons, 98. Adam Lammers, 107. Mitchel Maag, 111. Alex Gerdeman, 118.

(6) Miller City (391) T. J. Michel, 92. Thomas Weis, 96. Caleb Niese, 100. Isabelle Vance, 103. Dillon Peck, 110. Chelsea Erford, 122.

(7) Fort Jennings (445) Nick Trentman, 104. Evan Hoersten, 108. Gavin Schimmoller, 115. Aidan Grothouse, 118. Zach Schulte, 124.

Scholar Athletes – Gabe Hardeman and Tayt Birnesser from Columbus Grove. Jaden Siefker and Alex Gerdeman from Leipsic. T. J. Michel from Miller City. Jack Langhals and Grant Kortokrax from Ottoville. Jacob Suter and Lexi Neuwenschwander from Pandora-Gilboa.