

Ottoville Golfers Capture Fourth Straight PCL Title 1987 PCL Tournament

Putnam County Sentinel

Those attending the Putnam County Golf meet Monday at the Bluffton Golf course knew it would be close for number one.

What they didn't expect was there would be only two teams after the scores started coming with a chance for the top spot. And those two teams would be the ones always within the top two spots.

Ottoville and Kalida staged a hearty battle Monday through slightly cool and windy conditions. But when the final tallies were announced Ottoville had retained their PCL title with a five stroke victory over Kalida.

Ottoville won the meet for the fourth straight year with a team score of 318. Kalida finished second with a 323, while Columbus Grove was third with 335. Fort Jennings and Pandora-Gilboa tied for fourth with a 351, Miller City was sixth with a 361 and Continental filled the last position with a 363.

In the weeks leading up to tournament many of the area golf coaches figured any one of the teams could be the winner. And they had good reason as the area teams were making impressive showings in their matches and invitationals.

But when it got down to it Monday the cool and windy conditions played havoc. Although there were a few low scores, the race for the top spot came down to two teams.

Experience may have been the key to the Big Green's victory coach Jim Maley points out.

"We've got an excellent group of golfers," said Maley. "They have had a lot of success this year and they have a lot of confidence in themselves."

"We have five seniors among our top seven golfers and there is a lot of competition among them for the top five spots. Troy (Landin) and Greg (Kortokrax) have been in four and three of these and it helps."

Landin, who has been a member of four championship teams, and Kortokrax led Ottoville to the championship as they both shot 76's. Landin shot a 38-38, while Kortokrax had a one under 35 on the front and a five over 41 on the back. Jason Ricker (39-42) shot an 81 and Mike Schnipke (41-44) an 85.

Kalida was led by Keith Nartker with a 78, while Jared Burgei had a 79, Jeff Giesige an 81 and Denny Karcher an 85.

"Landin hadn't been playing his best golf of late," Maley said. "In the last week his game has really started to improve."

"Saturday really gave us some confidence as we won the Stryker Invitational. We played some great golf then and it carried over into the PCL."

"Our kids handled the course nicely today. It's not an easy course and with all the wind and things it makes it just that much more difficult to play."

Landin, Kortokrax and Nartker were all named to the first team along with Continental's Jeff Grant and Fort Jennings' Jim Cook. Named to the second team were Ricker of Ottoville, Burgei and Giesige of Kalida, Columbus Grove's Lance Seyer and Pandora-Gilboa's Eric Hermiller. The top individuals were automatically picked to the first and second team.

SCORES

OTTOVILLE 318 - Troy Landin (38-38-76), Greg Kortokrax (35-41-76), Jason Ricker (39-42-81) and Mike Schnipke (41-44-85).

KALIDA 323 - Keith Nartker (38-40-78), Jared Burgei (40-39-79), Jeff Giesige (38-43-81) and Denny Karcher (44-41-85).

COLUMBUS GROVE 335 - Lance Seyer (40-39-79), Jeff Schumaker (43-41-84), Lee Halker (40-46-86) and Ryan Auchmuty (43-43-86).

PANDORA-GILBOA 351 - Eric Hermiller (37-44-81), Bruce Alt (39-50-89), Jason Huffman (43-47-90) and Ty Comer (47-44-91).

FORT JENNINGS 351 - Jim Cook (40-38-78), Brad Yerick (45-43-88), Dan Good (44-47-91) and Steve Schroeder (46-48-92).

MILLER CITY 362 - Jeff Rosengarten (42-45-87), Scott Niese (48-42-90), Dale Dulle (44-47-91) and Steve Brown (47-47-94).

CONTINENTAL 363 - Jeff Grant (38-38-77), Brad Bauer (39-43-82), Art Lewis (46-47-93) and Dean Bracken (58-53-111).