

Back Nine Helps Kalida to 2013 PCL Golf Championship

Putnam County Sentinel – Charlie Warnimont, Sports Editor – September 25, 2013

KALIDA – Monday's Putnam County League golf tournament came down to which team played better on the back nine.

Miller City had an eight-shot lead on Kalida as the two teams made the turn at the Country Acres Golf Course. On the back nine, Kalida turned the tables on Miller City outshooting their foe by 15 strokes to repeat as PCL champions.

Kalida's play on the back nine helped them to a 329 score for the day to repeat as league champions. Miller City finished with a 336 score for second place. Leipsic finished third with a 376, while Fort Jennings and Columbus Grove both had a 378 and Ottoville was sixth with a 381.

On a sunny and slightly windy day at Country Acres, Miller City had a 160-168 lead on Kalida at the turn. On the back nine, Kalida improved their score by seven strokes, shooting a 161, while Miller City came in with a 176 score for the overall totals. (The totals are based on the four low scores for each team that counted in the final standings).

Kalida's back nine totals included a 38 by Evan Recker, a 39 by Zach Erhart, a 40 by Brady Mathews and a 44 from Jeff Knueve. Miller City's back nine scores were a 40 by Jared Fuka, a 42 by Austin Lammers, a 44 by Davis Lammers and a 50 by Cody Sheets.

"We were really close at the turn, so it came down to the back nine," Kalida's coach Ken Schnipke said. "I don't know if it was determination. I had a couple of players that I can talk to and they get a little more determined, which is nice. It just fell our way. We got the bounces."

Miller City's coach Dusty Pester felt if the tournament came down to the back nine, Kalida might have an edge, not since they were playing on the Wildcat's home course, but from what happened in a quad match last week.

"I knew when the kids made the turn fairly even, Kalida would be tough to beat on the backside," Pester said. "They have good players and the back plays a little tougher.

We played a match here on the back a week or so ago and we didn't shoot our best score. I knew that would give us a few challenges. I was proud of the way the kids hung in there and we posted a good score today."

Leading Kalida for the day was tournament co-medalist Erhart with a 77 (38-39). Recker followed with an 82 (44-38), Mathews had an 84 (44-40) and Knueve had an 86 (42-44). Collin Nartker finished with an 88 (47-41) for the Wildcats. Nartker's round Monday included a hole-in-one on the Par-3 fifth hole.

All five of these players are underclassmen as the Wildcats started two juniors, a sophomore and two freshmen Monday.

Erhart, Recker and Mathews received first team PCL honors, while Knueve and Nartker were placed on the second.

"Miller City had us scared," Schnipke said. "They have been outplaying us all year, watching the scores they post. They played strong; they made it a good battle. We had some good scores today. When you have a fourth guy come in with an 82 that is a good score for your fourth man. It came down to the three guys and Miller City's score was a little higher. Sometimes you play 18 holes and the second nine is worse than the first. For us today it was better."

"I've been waiting all season for Zach to do what he did today. He really didn't start that well, after four holes he was four over, but he made the turn at 38. He just hung in there, didn't give up and kept plugging away. Like I said, I've been waiting for a score like that from him," Schnipke added.

Fuka led Miller City with a 77 (37-40) to earn a share of the medalist honors. Davis Lammers followed with an 82 (38-44), Austin Lammers had an 84 (42-42) and Cody Sheets had a 93 (43-50). Jacob Schimmoeller finished with a 96 (47-49).

Fuka, Davis and Austin Lammers all were named to the PCL first team.

"The kids played well today for us to shoot a 336," Pester said. "We had kids that

played well individually with three first team members. That is a good accomplishment for us and for those kids. Congratulations to Kalida, but I'm happy with what we did."

"Jared to be back-to-back co-medalist is a great accomplishment for him to end his senior year on. He was playing extremely well, but took a triple on 17, or else he might have gone real low. But if you said before the round he would shoot a 77, he would take it. That is a good score for him," Pester added.

Rounding out the PCL second team was Ottoville's Wesley Markward with an 86, Columbus Grove's Logan Diller with an 88 and Fort Jennings' Sam Vetter with an 89.

John Ellerbrock and Neil Haselman paced Leipsic's third place finish with 93's.

Two players were named Scholar Athletes in Miller City's Liz Schimmoeller and Ottoville's Luke Schimmoeller.

SCORES

KALIDA 329 - Zach Erhart 77, Evan Recker 82, Brady Mathews 84, Jeff Knueve 86 and Collin Nartker 88.

MILLER CITY 336 - Jared Fuka 77, Davis Lammers 82, Austin Lammers 84, Cody Sheets 93 and Jacob Schimmoeller 96.

LEIPSIC 376 - John Ellerbrock 93, Neil Haselman 93, Emilleo Guerra 95, Alex Ellerbrock 95 and Logan Selhorst 102.

FORT JENNINGS 378 - Sam Vetter 89, Luke Luebrecht 93, Nate German 98, Alex Sealts 98 and Ryan Rau 101.

COLUMBUS GROVE 378 - Logan Diller 88, Brandon Hoffman 96, Cody Woods 96, Kyle Welty 98 and Logan Hardeman 115.

OTTOVILLE 381 - Wesley Markward 86, Luke Schimmoeller 90, Brendon Schnipke 99, Matt Turnwald 106 and Ryan Kemper 115.