

# Kalida Survives the Elements to Win the PCL Golf Championship in 2016

Putnam County Sentinel – Charlie Warnimont, Sports Editor – September 28, 2016

One through six, the Kalida golf team features a pretty balanced lineup. But even this balanced lineup was challenged Monday as the Putnam County League held its annual tournament at Country Acres.

Morning rains left the course damp and that forced a 30-minute delay in the start times due to wet greens. Steadily increasing afternoon winds became a challenge for golfers on the back nine.

Kalida managed to handle the conditions the best as they shot the five low scores of the day to win the PCL Tournament.

With the top five scores, the Wildcats claimed the 2016 PCL Championship with a 328 team score. Miller City finished second to Kalida with a 367 followed by Columbus Grove with a 376, Fort Jennings had a 389, Ottoville a 414 and Leipsic a 477.

Having won the regular season and tournament championship, the Wildcats were the outright PCL Champions with a 10-0 record. Miller was the runner-up. This with the sixth straight PCL Championship for the Wildcats.

Although the Wildcats won the tournament by 39 shots, Kalida Coach Ken Schnipke didn't feel the team played their best golf Monday. The Wildcats made the turn at 156, but as the wind picked up on the back nine his team struggled some shooting a 172. Schnipke felt his golfers may have started worrying about their scores instead of just playing each hole.

"It was a little different," Schnipke said. "We made the turn at 156, then proceeded to play a lot worse on the back nine. They said the wind picked up a little more on the back nine and everyone played a little worse. I don't know if they were thinking about their score and forgetting about playing. Otherwise 328 is a good score on a windy day like today and it was good enough to win. The course probably played a little tougher with the rain this morning then the wind and course drying out."

Senior Trent Siebeneck led the Kalida charge shooting a 79 as he went out in 39 and finished with a 40 for medalist honors. This was the second time Siebeneck was medalist at the PCL Tournament as he earned that honor as a sophomore. Senior Jeffrey Knueve was next with an 80 (39-41) for the second low score of the day. Josh Klausung had an 84, while Christian and Collin Nartker both had an 85.

"Trent was the medalist two years ago and he did it again this year, so that was nice," Schnipke said. "He played really well today. Jeffrey was the Player of the Year after falling just short last year and that was nice. Overall, we were pretty consistent with an 84, and two 85s. Josh Recker (94) played the six spot and didn't play as well as he has been, but he had the flu over the week end and was probably worn out from that. Overall we played good. The top five guys had the top five scores."

Knueve said winning the PCL Player of the Year was a goal of his all season after he came up a half point short as a junior. Knueve edged Siebeneck for Player of the Year honors with 91 points and

Siebeneck had 89.5. "That was a motivation all year after coming up short last year," Knueve said. "It never really left my mind. When you are that close you never forget how close you come. This is a team sport, as long as the team wins. The goal and to win the PCL and winning it all four years is really nice. We just needed everyone to go out and put together a good round."

Siebeneck said playing a consistent round in the changing conditions was key to him taking medalist honors. "Conditions were tough with the wind picking up on the backside. I was focused on my putting and it kind of all happened," Siebeneck said. "Then I started hitting good wedges into the green. I hit 10 greens today and that helps. I kind of got into a groove today. I was pretty even throughout the day."

Miller City finished second in the tournament as they were led by Jacob Schimmoeller with an 87, Davis Lammers had a 93, Luke Lammers a 95 and Kelvin Stechschulte a 99.

Knueve, Siebeneck, Klausung and Christian Nartker were named to the PCL first team for Kalida along with Forth Jennings Logan Hardeman and Miller City's Davis Lammers.

The second team consisted of Schimmoeller and Luke Lammers from Miller City, Collin Nartker from Kalida, Kyle Welty from Columbus Grove, Sam Vetter from Fort Jennings and Dylan Kemper from Ottoville.

Schnipke was named the PCL Coach of the Year.

Kalida – 328 – Trent Siebeneck 79, Jeffrey Knueve 80, Josh Klausung 84, Christian Nartker 85, Collin Nartker 85 and Josh Recker 94.

Miller City – 367 – Jacob Schimmoeller 87, Boyd Vance 92, Davis Lammers 93, Luke Lammers 95, Kelvin Stechschulte 99 and Steven Stechschulte 101.

Columbus Grove – 376 – Jacob Oglesbee 92, Kyle Welty 94, Noah Oglesbee 95, Grant Schroeder 95, Owen Macke 101 and Zach Roberts 108.

Fort Jennings – 389 – Logan Hardeman 88, Sam Vetter 94, Brandon Wehri 103, Connor Stechschulte 104, Austin Luebrecht 106 and Griffin Morman 116.

Ottoville – 414 – Dylan Kemper 91, Andy Schimmoeller 98, Ethan Geise 107, Kaleb Hanicq 118, Evan Turnwald 122 and Zach Knippen 123.

Leipsic – 477 – Tyler Goedde 114, Brock Lammers 118, Mason Tadana 119, Eli Wueller 126 and Kyle Mickens 140.

Scholar Athletes: Fort Jennings - Griffin Morman, Logan Hardeman and Ryan Hoersten. Kalida – Jeffrey Knueve and Trent Siebeneck. Leipsic – Lily Kamphaus. Miller City – Jacob Schimmoeller.