

Mack closes well, but Arcata claims H-DN golf title

The Times-Standard
Eureka Times Standard

Article Launched:04/24/2007 04:30:16 AM PDT

BENBOW -- On a beautiful day for playing golf, McKinleyville High School edged Eureka High by one stroke, 406-407, on Monday at the Benbow Golf Course to win the Humboldt-Del Norte final regular season golf tournament.

The St. Bernard's team took third on the day with a 427, 10 strokes ahead of Arcata High.

Eureka's Any Clayton, who shot a sizzling 66 at last week H-DN tourney at the Eureka Municipal Course, and St. Bernard's Mike Dominick each shot rounds of 74 for the lowest scores of the day at Benbow.

Mack teammates Spencer Stephens and Thomas Richards were close behind with rounds of 76 and 77, respectively.

McKinleyville head coach Patrick Clancy was not surprised that Stephens had done so well, because "he stays on the fairways," which is important on a course like Benbow with its out-of-bounds areas on both sides.

Thomas, who finished as the H-DN's top golfer with an overall average of 73.1, rebounded after his highest score of the season (83) last week at Eureka.

"It was nice to see him get back on track," said Clancy. "We were really pleased."

The Loggers Austin Love finished fifth on the day with a 79.

Despite the fact that Arcata finished in fourth place at Benbow, the Tigers aggregate score of 2905 after the seven tournaments gave them the 2007 H-DN golf championship.

"We are happy about the season, but not too much about today," said Arcata head coach Josh Leong. "It was a bittersweet way to win it."

The Tigers ended up just 16 strokes ahead of McKinleyville's 2921, and well ahead of Eureka's 2968.

By virtue of their top three finishes in the H-DN league, each of these high schools has earned the privilege to send six of its golfers to compete in the North Coast Section/Les Schwab qualifying tournament to be held at the Chardonnay Golf Course in Napa on Monday, May 7.

In addition, the top three overall finishers in the H-DN from other schools qualified for the NCS tournament. This year all three golfers -- Dominick, Vince Ayala and Cameron Olson -- are from the same team, St. Bernard's.

The Crusaders finished fourth in the league with an aggregate score of 3078.

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