

Clayton still tops: Eureka junior wins golf finale, finishes No. 1 in standings

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While others struggled in blustery conditions on a tight course, Eureka's Andy Clayton cut through the wind and the competition.

Clayton shot an even par 70 to win at Benbow Golf Course on Monday, the final high school event of the season. It was Clayton's fourth consecutive win and his fifth in seven events.

The win capped an incredible season for Clayton, who finished first overall in the individual standings by 33 strokes.

His performance on Monday exemplifies his body of work this year. The second-place finisher, McKinleyville's Kyle Johnson, shot a 75, which is very good at Benbow where out-of-bounds markers line each hole, but was still five strokes behind Clayton.

"I'm actually having a pretty good day despite some rough conditions. I missed a couple of four-foot putts, the greens are heavily sanded," said Clayton.

But his success is no accident. After making par on the long par five, he admitted some familiarity with the course.

"I played this course more when I was younger but I've tried to get down here and play it a couple of times a year," he said.

McKinleyville finished first as a team, firing a collective 388, but the surprise was Arcata, who needed a low round to make the postseason. The Tigers took second with a 412, but were one stroke behind Eureka.

Arcata needed to make up 32 strokes to surpass Eureka for the second spot in the North Coast Section championships. McKinleyville was first in the overall standings and claimed the other bid to NCS.

Final Prep Standings

The high school golf season came to an end Monday. Here are the top 5 in the individual standings.

Andy Clayton Eureka 517

Spencer Stephens Mack 550

Will Rice Mack 562

Matt Cendejas Arcata 571

Marley Dellamas Arcata 574

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