

Boys' golf: LCA wins 9th Region title

Henry Clay also advances to state; Madison Central's Witt top individual

By Mike Fields - mfields@herald-leader.com

Lexington Christian won its first boys' region golf title on Tuesday, ignoring adverse conditions to turn in one of its best performances of the season.

On an chilly, windy, gray day, the Eagles had four players shoot in the 70s on the University of Kentucky's difficult Wildcat course. Their 297 total was good enough for a 10-shot victory over runner-up Henry Clay.

Both teams advance to the state tournament in Bowling Green next week.



Mark Cornelison | Staff

Lexington Christian's Chandler Fischer, who carded a team-best 72, teed off on the 14th hole on the University of Kentucky's Wildcat course.



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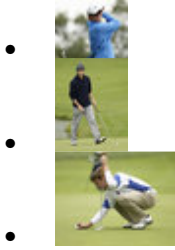
Henry Clay's Preston French watched his putt miss the mark on #15 in the high school regional golf tournament on Tuesday September 29, 2009 in Lexington, Ky. Photo by Mark Cornelison | Staff



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Madison Central's Stuart Witt, who won the 9th Region individual title, lined up his putt on the 14th hole on Tuesday.

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- Top 20 individuals

69—Stuart Witt (Mad. Central); **71**—Preston French (HClay); **72**—Chandler Fischer (LCA); **73**—Hager Collins (LCA); Stirling Duncan (TCreek); **75**—Adam Venci (Scott Co.); **76**—Will Bishop (PLD); Chandler Morgan (TCreek); Ben Simpson (HClay); Ethan Sprang (LCA); Hunter Stewart (HClay); **78**—Adam Herald (Mad. Central); Will Kelly (Model); **79**—Timmy Armentrout (LexCath); Andrew Klein (HClay); Richie Meier (LexCath); **81**—Daniel Deluca (LexCath); Taylor Combs (LCA); Brad Martin (Clark Co.); Harrison Combs (HClay); Kyle Wilshire (Scott Co.)

- Boys' 9th Region golf **At par-71 University Club of Kentucky**
- Team results

Lexington Christian 297; Henry Clay 307; Madison Central 318; Scott Co. 319; Lexington Catholic 322; Tates Creek 329; Clark Co. 332; Paul Laurence Dunbar 332; Western Hills 346; Lafayette 351; Franklin County 352; Bourbon Co. 354; Woodford Co. 360; Model 373; Sayre 376; Paris 395; Madison Southern 398; Bryan Station 460; Frankfort 501; Berea (no team score)

Madison Central senior Stuart Witt took medalist honors with a 2-under 69. He was the only golfer in the 98-player field to break par. He had four birdies to offset two bogeys.

Also qualifying for state as individuals were Tates Creek junior Stirling Duncan, who carded a 73, and Scott County senior Adam Venci, who had a 75.

"I was thinking team first all day," Witt said. "It didn't hit me that I might win the individual (title) until after it was over.

"My short game hadn't been good all year, but I got it going today."

LCA had it going all day, too. Sophomore Chandler Fischer led the way with a 72.

"This is a really awesome deal," Fischer said. "We all stayed mentally tough and focused on our goal."

Eagles Coach Eric Geldhof agreed.

"It's been a lot of work, a ton of work," he said. "We put a lot of preparation into it.

"We've got one more fish to fry but, as a team, we've really come together."

LCA, region runner-up the previous two years, also got strong play from sophomore Hager Collins, who had a 73. Junior Hunter Stewart, region medalist last year, and sophomore Ethan Sprang had 76s. Taylor Combs' 81 didn't count in the team score.

"I hope we go to the state and get the job done there, too" Fischer said.

Henry Clay is headed back to the state for the first time since it won the title in 2006.

Sophomore Preston French led the Blue Devils with a 71, the second lowest score of the day. Senior Ben Simpson had a 76, Andrew Klein a 79, Harrison Combs an 81 and Stuart Pace an 86.

"Only one of us (Simpson) was on the (state championship team), so its all new for the rest of us," French said.

Henry Clay Coach Stephen Keinath said his golfers "hadn't met expectations all year ... until today.

"That's good timing."

The Leachman Buick/GMC State Tournament is Oct. 6-7 at Bowling Green Country Club.