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Lambert leads Napoleon to surprise 2nd-place finish at GBC tourney

BY JEFF ARENZ
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FREMONT -- Brandon Lambert helped Napoleon surprise the Greater Buckeye Conference at its boys golf tournament Monday at Fremont Country Club.

Lambert became the league medalist after making par on the first playoff hole to defeat Findlay's Curtis Eckert. They were deadlocked at 8-over 79 through 18 holes before the playoff.

"It was amazing to win this tournament because Curtis played very well," Lambert said. "That last hole pretty much game down to a putting contest."

Findlay defended its league championship as it edged Napoleon by a stroke 332-333.

Lambert, who was named the league's Player of the Year, sank a 7-foot putt from the bottom left side of the No. 1 green to turn back Eckert, who missed an 8-foot attempt from almost the same location.

"I had to be cautious because the green was slippery, and it was uphill," Lambert said. "It was a tough day to play."

Alex Chudzinski fired an 80 to lead Fremont Ross, which finished third with 348 strokes.

"I was happy with the way I played for the conditions," Chudzinski said. "Playing in the wind, I know that I have to make smart decisions with my shots and then deal with the shots that happen."

Marion Harding finished fourth with 405 shots while Sandusky claimed fifth with 436. The Presidents were led by led Josh Gibson (96) and the Blue Streaks were paced by Trey Keegan (93).

The Little Giants, who finished second to Findlay in 2008, were disappointed they couldn't parlay their home-course advantage into a GBC championship.

"It was like playing trick golf for most of the day, because the wind was insane," Ross coach Nick Rider said. "It seemed like there were 50-mile per hour gusts and a steady 30-mile per hour wind when there weren't any gusts. In very tough conditions, we played bad. Even under the conditions, I thought we would have stuck around 85. It just didn't happen."

Ian Mowry and Clay Schwartz added 89s, Brandon Hoelzer carded a 90, Dexter Foos shot a 95 and Garrett Steinle ended up with a 96.

"We were not happy with the way we finished at the GBC," Chudzinski said. "But it was a good experience for the type of conditions we might be facing Saturday at the sectional tournament."

Ross is among a field of 21 teams competing at the OHSAA Division I Sectional Tournament on Saturday at Thunderbird Golf Course in Huron.

While Lambert, Eckert and Chudzinski were the top three golfers, Findlay's Michael Propovec and

Napoleon's Colton Barnell tied for fourth after shooting 83s. All five golfers landed on the All-GBC First Team.

The All-GBC Second Team included C.J. Rogers (Findlay, 85), Sam Adams (Findlay, 85), Andrew Taylor (Napoleon, 85), Zach Hoops (Napoleon, 86) and Eli Stacy (Findlay, 87).

Findlay's Scott Grant was selected as the league's Coach of the Year.
