

Irish Invitational

Connor Dudley's 75 led all St. Joseph Central Catholic golfers Monday at Toledo Central Catholic's Irish Invitational played at Stone Ridge Golf Club.

SJCC tallied a team score of 341 as Brett Michael added an 81, Aaron Burns a 92 and Adam Swint a 93.

Fremont Ross competed short-handed and shot a 379. Brandon Weiker's 87 led the Little Giants. Scott Kosakowski added an 88.

No final team results were reported.

BOYS GOLF

TRAC Shootout

Brandon Weiker's 85 led all Ross golfers at Wednesday's Three Rivers Athletic Conference shootout at Red Hawk Run.

Jerad Hutton added an 87 as the Little Giants finished fifth with a team score of 362.

Findlay's team score of 309 was a stroke better than second-place St. John's Jesuit. St. Francis de Sales with a 318 was third with Clay fourth at 340.

Weiker topped Ross's list on Tuesday too, shooting a 78 as the Little Giants took eighth out of 19 teams at the Maumee Panther Invitational.

Michael Hall added a round of 80 in the tournament won by St. Francis' 301.



Brandon Weiker of Fremont Ross hits from the fairway during a golf match Tuesday against SJCC at the Fremont Country Club. JONATHON

BIRD/NEWS-MESSENGER

SJCC has enough to top Ross

By Kevin Shields

Sports writer

FREMONT — It wasn't the impressive 326 score St. Joseph Central Catholic had put up Monday at the Catawba Island Club.

Nevertheless, 344 still did the job on Tuesday. Connor Dudley shot a 6-over 79 — a day after earning medalist honors at CIC with a 3-under 69 — as the Crimson Streaks topped Ross by three strokes in their annual dual match at the Fremont Country Club.

“Not quite the score we wanted to shoot today, but it was a difficult course,” SJCC coach Tom Dudley said. “If you hit a couple errant shots here, it definitely comes back to bite you, and we saw a little bit of that today.”

Brandon Weiker's 7-over 80 paced the Little Giants. Ross's Michael Hall posted the third low round, carding an 84.

SJCC got a pair of 85s from Brett Michael and Aaron Burns.

See SJCC, page 7A

SJCC

Continued from Page 6A

"Today was a hiccup for sure," Michael said. "I'd been playing pretty solid and shooting an 85 on my home course after shooting an 82 at CIC Monday, that was pretty disappointing."

Michael, the Streaks' No. 2 golfer and only other four-year player besides Dudley, is one of only three returnees who experienced last year's state trip.

"You got to love that," said Michael of having more responsibility and more of an impact on SJCC's score than in years past. "I'm going to have to step it up, especially at sectional and district time. We want to go back to state again this year."

"But in the back of your mind, even though you try not to take it on the course with you, you know you got to put up a good score. So, there's definitely more pressure that goes with it, too."

Adam Swint's 95 rounded out the four-man score for SJCC, which won't return to action until Monday's Tiffin Calvert Invitational.

"There will be a lot of good

schools there," coach Dudley said. "We'll run into the likes of Lima Central Catholic, Minster and other top programs from our district down there."

SJCC took third at New Bremen's Cardinal Invitational last Tuesday, shooting a 327. It wrapped up the week by winning the Seneca East Invitational on Thursday with a 316, where Dudley shot his second 69 in as many tournaments.

"This whole last week was good for us," coach Dudley said. "To go down to New Bremen and play as well as we did was good, then winning the Seneca East Invitational was big because there were a lot of (Midland Athletic League) MAL schools there."

"But Monday at CIC was probably the highlight (finished second to St. John's Jesuit's 320). To play that well on that tough a course was a big booster for us."

Jalen Oman carded a 90 for Ross's third lowest score. He was followed by Jared Hutton's and Scott Kosakowski's rounds of 93.

Kosakowski, a two-year letter winner for the Little Giants, returned to golf this fall after taking a year off to concentrate on

swimming.

"I'm definitely glad I came back," Kosakowski said. "I'm playing a lot better than what I expected I'd be playing, so it's been good."

This past winter, Kosakowski was an honorable mention all-Three Rivers Athletic Conference swimmer, earning a spot in two individual events at districts.

"I wanted to get to state," he said. "But this year, since it's my senior year, I want to get everything in that I can and enjoy it."

The Little Giants are without the services of TRAC golfer of the year Brandon Hoelzer, who graduated. Clay Schwartz is also gone, as is Albert Baumann, leaving some gaping holes in the lineup.

Weiker is listed as the No. 1 man for Ross, but the duties won't fall on him alone.

"It's going to change every single day," said Kosakowski of who will be the No. 1 guy. "We just know as a group if we go out there and we all shoot an average round, we're going to compete."

kshields@gannett.com.

419-334-1043

Twitter: @KShieldsNM

Fremont Ross 171, Toledo Whitmer 173

Brandon Weiker earned medalist honors at 39 at Fremont Country Club for the Little Giants in the Three Rivers Athletic Conference.

Jared Hutton shot a 43 while Michael Hall and Scott Kosakowski carded 44 and 45, respectively, for Ross.

Golf

Clay 175, Ross 182

Brandon Weiker and Michael Hall each fired a 45 for the Little Giants in a Three Rivers Athletic Conference loss to the Eagles on Thursday at the Fremont Country Club.

Scott Kosakowski and Jalen Oman both contributed rounds of 46.

Golfers may be dealing with too much pressure

By Kevin Shields

Sports writer

FREMONT — Ross coach Jim Scharer is concerned his golfers are putting too much pressure on themselves to repeat the successes of a year ago.

The Little Giants, district champions and state qualifiers in 2011, graduated standouts Brandon Hoelzer, the Three Rivers Athletic Conference player of the year — now playing for Owens Community College — and Clay Schwartz, a second-team all-TRAC performer. And Scharer's No. 3 man decided not to play this season, taking away another solid scorer.

In turn, it's put pressure on guys like Brandon Weiker, Scott Kosakowski, Michael Hall and Jared Hutton to constantly go out on the links, knowing very well, that their scores are going to have to count in the four-man team total.

Weiker shot a 5-over 40, while Kosakowski and Hall carded 42s as Ross took sixth with a 171 at

Thursday's first nine-hole TRAC Shootout held at the Fremont County Club.

Spencer Shoemaker's low round of 2-under 33 helped Findlay to the team title at 147. St. John's Jesuit was second at 151 and St. Francis de Sales third at 152.

"I think that's tightened our kids up a bit," said Scharer of his team adapting to key losses, and yet, trying to live up to unnecessary expectations. "And I'm trying to tell them, this is a year where we can show some improvement, but we don't have to put so much pressure on ourselves that when it comes time to improve, we're so mentally drained from the pressure that we can't finish like we should.

"We finished fourth in the league last year and we can finish fifth in the league this year," Scharer continued. "We just have to understand what our expectations are. Our expectations are to shoot anywhere from 160 to 163 in these nine-hole events, which is a good round for us."

Weiker, the new No. 1 for Scharer, has been Ross' most consistent low-scorer. But on Thursday, his tee game and irons were letting him down.

"The only thing that was good today was my putting," Weiker said. "I just couldn't get the ball on the green to do anything with it."

Weiker's irons left him scrambling to save par on the greens.

"I wasn't doing a good job of judging my distances on the second shots," he said.

For Hall, it was much the same.

"My putting and my chipping

really saved me," Hall said. "I saved a couple pars because of that. I just wasn't hitting a lot of fairways."

Hall's play throughout the three 18-hole TRAC shootouts was, as he described, "very up and down."

"The TRAC is super hard and ever since we lost Brandon (Hoelzer), Clay (Schwartz) and Albert (Baumann) we've had a lot of pressure on us," he said. "But I think we've been doing OK with given what we have."

Kosakowski added: "It's just that we're so close (the entire team), it's frustrating. I mean we were three strokes off of getting fourth today and we just need to do that. Hopefully, we hit that at the end of the year, where we can do everything we need to do and we're going to beat these teams that we're real close to."

Nate Garza added a 47 for the Little Giants and Jalen Oman shot a 51.

"I thought we played fairly well today, we just didn't finish," Scharer said. "When the kids were finishing up there seventh holes, I thought we had a good shot to shoot around 164 or 165.

"But overall, those top three scores are good scores for us this year."

Ross is currently sixth in the TRAC standings after four of the seven league events.

The next TRAC Shootout will be Thursday at Maumee Bay State Park.

KShields@gannett.com.

419-334-1043

Twitter: @KShieldsNM

headlines, text NMSCORES to 44636.

Please include first and last names of all athletes.

Recreation reports may be dropped off at The News-Messenger office, 1700 Cedar St., by midnight on the day or evening of the event. A drop box is located to the left of the main entrance. Recreation reports must include first and last names of all participants.

BETTSVILLE — St. Joseph Central Catholic had three golfers finish in the top five, including Connor Dudley, who tied for medalist honors with a 1-under 35 as the Crimson Streaks won the second Midland Athletic League Divisional Match on Wednesday at Nature Trails Golf Course shooting a 154.

Aaron Burns shot a 36 for SJCC to place fourth, while Brett Michael who tied for fifth added a 38. Adam Swint carded a 45.

Makayla Dull's 38 led Lakota, which finished fourth (173). Hunter Chalfin carded a 44, Josh Mason shot a 45 and Nate Ray a 46.

Third-place Old Fort was paced by 40s from Cole Davidson and Adam Alexander. Matt Hill fired a 44 and Maison Steyer a 47.

Bettsville, topped by Ryan Hager's 45, was seventh (217).

Tiffin Calvert, featuring co-medalists Jeremy Hanna and Johnny Hays, was the team runner-up at 163.

Golf

Ross 198, Northwood 220

Jared Hutton's 45 helped the

Little Giants to a non-league win over the Rangers on Wednesday at the Fremont County Club.

Max Chudzinski added a 49 for Ross, while Derek Genzman and Jalen Oman shot 50 and 51, respectively.

Ottawa Hills 155, Gibsonburg 192

Adam Neeb (46), Alex Gibson (48) and Cyrus Foos (48) all shot under 50, but the Golden Bears fell to the Green Bears on Wednesday in a Toledo Area Athletic Conference match at Ottawa Park.

Tennis

Clyde 5, Huron 0

Amanda Cahill dropped a single game en route to a win at second singles as the Fliers won in the Sandusky Bay Conference.

Lexi Weber won 6-1, 4-6, 6-0 at first singles for Clyde (10-0, 7-0) and Kristina Reimer won 6-2, 6-2 at third singles.

Alix Bouvet and Maria Gerber were 6-1, 7-6 (8-6) winners at No. 1 doubles, while Emi Bowers and Andrea Nearhood won 6-3, 6-3 at second doubles.

Three Rivers Athletic Conference Shootout

Scott Kosakowski led Ross with a round of 43 as the Little Giants finished sixth at Monday's TRAC Shootout at Brandywine Country Club.

Jared Hutton and Nate Garza each shot rounds of 44 for Ross, currently seventh in the league points. Brandon Weiker carded a 46 and Michael Hall shot a 47.

Findlay edged St. John's Jesuit 151-155 for the overall team title. Findlay leads the TRAC standings by three points over the Titans.

Garret Rupert and Brett Combs each carded a 39 as Clyde's boys golf team climbed into a tie with Port Clinton for first in the Sandusky Bay Conference with a 162-167 victory over Edison at Thunderbird Golf Course on Tuesday.

Luke Hohenstein and Zach Rieman each added a 42 for the Fliers (10-2).

SJCC second

Connor Dudley earned medalist honors at even-par 35, but St. Joseph Central Catholic lost a tiebreaker to finish second behind Ottawa Hills.

Adam Swint shot a 41 and Brett Michael a 42 for the Crimson Streaks.

Scott Kosakowski fired a 42 as Fremont Ross was third.