



## LOCKPORT BOYS & GIRLS SWSC GOLF



By Randy Whalen

Claire Ancevicus took a brief moment to take in her personal accomplishment.

But that was all the Lockport Township senior allowed herself to do.

Ancevicus was the top individual medalist with a 77, finishing just ahead of her teammate, Lizzie Anderson. But in the end, it wasn't quite enough as the Lockport Township girls golf team placed second in the Blue Division meet of the SouthWest Suburban Conference on Tuesday, Sept. 29 at Broken Arrow Golf Course in Lockport.

Sandburg, which went undefeated in SWSC dual meets during the season, slipped past the Porters 330-331 to capture their second straight SWSC Blue championship and seventh in the past eight seasons.

Lockport was the team that interrupted that streak, winning the conference two years ago. That was the Porter's second SWSC Blue title since the league formed in 2005. The other was in 2008. They nearly did it again on Tuesday but the Eagles edged them out by a stroke.

Lincoln-Way East (340) was third, followed by Bolingbrook (439) and Homewood-Flossmoor (489).

"It was a lot of fun and the girls played really well," Lockport coach Matt Major said. "Claire led us and Lizzy played very strong. Claire deserves it. She's put in the hard work since freshman year. Now we are looking forward to the regional."

Ancevicus, a 4-year varsity veteran, also looked forward to next week rather than reflect on the medalist honor.

"It's just nice knowing I did that," she said of finishing her high school career as the top golfer in the conference. "But now I'm like 'OK, we've got the regional next. What can I do to get better?'"

Playing on their home course was certainly a benefit for the Porters. Ancevicus took advantage with 11 pars, a birdy, and half dozen bogies on a tough day.

"It really helped," Ancevicus said of playing at Broken Arrow. "It rained yesterday and these greens have been nasty. But we got out here early and laid out a plan. My drives weren't the best today but my putting picked me up.

"(As a team) we were close. Nothing blew up in our face and nobody can put the blame on themselves. It's just the way it is and we have to be ready for the regional."

As a freshman in 2018, Anderson helped the Porters to the conference crown. But she tore the labrum in her left shoulder and missed last season. She's rebounded for a nice campaign this fall and registered the second-best score Tuesday with a 78.

"I had surgery last year on Nov.5 and went out and got my first couple of swings on May 1," Anderson said. "I only played in four tournaments over the summer but it feels fine now.

"Playing here (at Broken Arrow) helped a lot. We knew the pace of the greens. There are only two teams that advance out of the regional and we want to be one of them. We all know we can do better."

Freshman Ella Cline (100) paced the Lockport JV team, which placed third. The Porters will be one of 11 teams in the Class 2A Minooka Regional, which will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 7 at Heritage Bluffs Golf Club in Channahon.

Junior Bella Bozen (87) and freshman Gianna White (89) rounded out the carded scores for Lockport and also made All-Conference by finishing in the Top 10. The Eagles eked out the win, however, as their top three were consistent. Senior Athena Kwon, who was last year's SWSC Blue medalist, and sophomore Jillian Cosler both shot a 79 to pace Sandburg. Senior Joanna James (80) and junior Katherine Mikso (92) rounded out the Eagle scores.

"I told the girls beforehand that it would come down to one or two strokes and it did," Sandburg coach Todd Allen said. "We knew that Lockport on its home course would be tough."

Also on Tuesday, Sept. 29, the Lockport boys team finished second in its SWSC Blue tournament at Ravisloe Country Club in Homewood.

The Porters came in looking for their third straight SWSC Blue championship. But they didn't get it as Lincoln-Way East slipped in to win the Blue Division for the first time since 2017. It was the eighth SWSC championship for the Griffins, who won a trio of them ('08, '13, '14) in the Red Division. Lockport has seven ('05, '06, '08, '13, '14, '18, '19) all of them in the Blue. Lincoln-Way Central (10 titles, all in the Red Division) won its second straight and fifth in six seasons in the Red Division tourney on Tuesday.

"Lincoln-Way East played very well and handled the conditions," Lockport coach Matt Eber said. "It was wet and windy to start the day and we struggled with our consistency. That's what you have to have at this time of year."

That's what the Griffins were. Behind medalist, sophomore Dylan Drogemuller with a 72, they had a trio of golfers (sophomore Jake Krstulovich and freshman Tanner Leonard tied for 5th with 77 apiece) in the top six and finished with a 305 total. Lockport (311) edged Sandburg (312) for second place. H-F (320) placed fourth followed by Bolingbrook (364).

Freshman Joey Sluzas led Lockport with a 73, which was good for second place. Junior Brody McCarthy (78) was in a 4-way tie for seventh, so he also made All-Conference by finishing in the Top 10.

Senior Ben Sluzas, who has captured the past two Class 3A individual state championships, tied for 11th with a 79. Vincent Greci III (14th, 81) rounded out the Porter carded scores.

On the JV level, Lockport freshman Nathan Kwiatkowski shot an 83 to win the individual championship.

"Joey has been really consistent for us and is moving up in the lineup," Eber said. "I'm happy for him and Brody to make All-Conference. We know Ben will be there for us at this time of the season and that's what we are aiming for.

"Winning the conference is great but our focus is on the state series. We know we have to be more consistent and that's what we are looking for."

Next Tuesday, Oct. 6, the Porters host a Class 3A Regional starting at 8 AM at Broken Arrow.