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Ferndale Golfer Michael Coppini on the green. Submitted photo/ Denise Grinsell

Clayton, Dominick share win; Richards takes H-DN

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Andy Clayton's childhood putter stayed hot as he tied with St. Bernard's Mike Dominick at 74 to win Friday's prep golf season finale at Benbow Golf Course.

McKinleyville's Thomas Richards bounced back from his disappointing round a week ago to fire a 77 and claim his first-ever conference title in the individual standings.

Clayton's round, along with an uncharacteristic 90 from Arcata's Will Stromberg, bumped Clayton into the second overall slot in the individual standings.

Dominick and McKinleyville junior Spencer Stephens, who closed at 76, finished the season at fourth and fifth overall, respectively.

Arcata, as its head coach Andy Leong anticipated last week, struggled and finished with a season-high 437, though held onto the top spot in the team standing by virtue of the big lead it built over the last two rounds.

McKinleyville and Eureka kept their golfers below 89. The Panthers shot 406 and took second in the season standings, while the Loggers carded a 407 and took third.

Arcata, Mack and Eureka will all advance to the NCS tournament.

Dominick's teammate, Cameron Olson shot a 90 and survived a scare from Ferndale's Trevor Michel to hold on to the third and final individual qualifying slot in the North Coast Section tournament, which begins May 7. Vince Ayala shot a 79, and along with fellow Crusaders Olson and Dominick, was one of the top three golfers not on the conference's top three teams, therefore, earning him the right to make it to the NCS.

Michel had been stalking Olson on the leaderboard for weeks. After Baywood two rounds ago, Michel, who was trailing Olson by 10 strokes at that point, said Benbow, because of its narrow fairways and overall difficulty level, would be the

course where he could make his move. He almost did, closing the season with an 81, his lowest round of the year.

Olson finished the season at 614, two strokes ahead of Michel.