

The Signal

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Nick Delio

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You could always count on Saugus senior golfer Nick Delio.

His drive was usually long and tight.

His mistakes would usually be erased.

He would usually be on top or near the top of the leaderboard.

It matched his personality - consistently easygoing.

Since Delio arrived at Saugus High four years ago as a 5-foot-3, 105-pound boy wonder, people expected big things.

He's delivered every single year - a solid freshman season and two consecutive second-place individual finishes in the Foothill League (his sophomore and junior years).

His senior year was no different - now 5-foot-10 1/2 and 150 pounds, on his way to play golf at Cal State Northridge.

At Robinson Ranch on March 27, he set his pace with a 1-under 70 at the Mountain Course at Robinson Ranch in the Foothill League opener - a medalist performance.

He shot one stroke better two weeks later in Foothill No. 2, again taking medalist.

His one hiccup on the season came April 16, at his own course - Valencia Country Club, shooting an uncharacteristic 80.

Yet he'd bounce back.

Delio had a rival he's battled for the league title against in 2005 and 2006 - Hart's Joe Greiner and Valencia's Louis Amira in 2006 - and had another in 2007.

Hart's Johnny MacArthur.

On the second day of the Foothill League Final/Newhall Land Cup April 24, on No. 18, Delio had to hope MacArthur would miss a putt from 10 feet out to claim the league MVP.

MacArthur missed and the prize was Delio's, by a single stroke.

Yet Delio kept up his success in the postseason - the time where he shined the most in 2006.

Amira was The Signal's choice for All-Santa Clarita Valley Boys Golfer of the Year, until Delio's postseason run.

He won the CIF Individual Prelims - an event made up of the Southern Section's best golfers. He made it to the doorstep of the state championships, but failed to make the cut at the Southern California Championship - barely.

He ended up sharing the Signal's 2006 award.

He wouldn't let that happen this year.

Though MacArthur was breathing down his neck throughout the postseason for the title of Santa Clarita's best boy golfer, Delio continued to be consistently solid.

In the CIF-Southern Section Individual Prelims May 14, Delio shot a 69 - the lowest of any SCV golfer.

Nine days later, he did the same at the Southern Section Championship with a 1-under 71.

But he was topped by MacArthur May 31 by three strokes at the Southern California Championships, both not advancing to state.

It was because of that consistency that The Signal bestows upon Delio the 2007 Golfer of the Year.