

Sports

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SANTA BARBARA GOLF CLASSIC

CLASSIC COMEBACK

Schaeffer and Crawford use final-round 61, including an ace, to win SB Classic in a playoff



NICK MASUDA / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

Bobby Schaeffer hits a gap wedge into the green on the first playoff hole, sticking it to about eight feet, setting up a putt that he would drain to secure the Santa Barbara Classic title with partner Tyler Crawford, below. Crawford would catapult the duo with a clutch birdie at No. 11 and an ace on No. 13 at Santa Barbara Gofl Club.

By **NICK MASUDA**
DIRECTOR OF NEWS

Through 28 holes of the Santa Barbara Classic, things weren't exactly looking up for Bobby Schaeffer and Tyler Crawford.

A bogey on the par-3 10th at the Santa Barbara Golf Club was undoubtedly deflating.

"It was almost time to throw the white towel up," Crawford said.

But, it also allowed the duo to throw caution into the wind.

"Don't leave anything short, just let it rip and it just so happened that everything started falling," Crawford said.

After Crawford drained a 12-footer for birdie on No. 11, he followed with an ace on the par-3 13th and then the duo went birdie-birdie-eagle — the latter a 35-footer that Schaeffer drained from the front of the green — to fire a 9-under 61 to go from four shots back at the beginning of the day to into the clubhouse at 13 under, sharing the lead with Mark Pavletich and Stephen Hale.

Schaeffer, a former UCSB player and stand-out on the local amateur circuit, would birdie the first playoff hole with his sidesaddle putting style, putting his bright-yellow ball into the heart of the hole from eight feet.

"We didn't play our best early on, but we hung in there," Schaeffer said. "We weren't thinking about winning, hoping to get Top 3 and get in Randy (Shannon's) pro shop."

Schaeffer beat one of his former caddies, as Pavletich met him when he was 14 and carried his sticks early on.

"I don't like to lose, but losing to Bobby isn't anything to be ashamed of," Pavletich said.

Crawford's hole-in-one wasn't heard anywhere on the course, almost by design. Facing just a 98-yard shot, the stock sand wedge did exactly what it was supposed to, go a bit long and right, working its way back into the hole.

"I'm the only one that saw it go in, no one in the group saw it," said Crawford, 45, who has six aces in his standout amateur career. "I knew it was in."

Yet, despite the fast finish, the duo wasn't convinced that they'd win, with Crawford even

Please see **CLASSIC** on **B3**



Taggart, Foresters stymie Bat Cats

By **NICK MASUDA**
DIRECTOR OF NEWS

It's no secret that pitching wins championships.

If the first two games at the National Baseball Congress World Series are any indication, the Santa Barbara Foresters should be the odds-on favorites to defend their national title.

Luke Taggart recovered from a rough first inning to retire 16 consecutive batters, striking out 10 of them to lead the Foresters to a 6-1 win over the Great Bend Bat Cats.

Santa Barbara starters have given up only one run over 12 innings thus far in Wichita, while the bullpen has worked six scoreless innings.

Carson Carter, Clayton Beeter and Brad Demco surrendered only a single hit to close things out.

The Foresters offense got going in the second inning, with Zach Presno smashing his seventh home run of the summer to tie the game and Blake Hall following with a ground-rule double, eventually scoring on Quentin Selma's infield single to shortstop.

Santa Barbara added a run in the third on a bases-loaded walk by Ross Cadena.

Jacob Katzfey drove home two with a triple in the fourth inning, scoring moments later on a Nick Bellafronto sacrifice fly.

Santa Barbara will complete pool play on Tuesday against the Gameday Saints, at a time yet to be determined.

The Foresters sit atop the Pool B standings, one game ahead of the Bat Cats and Saints. A victory on Tuesday would give Santa Barbara an automatic berth into the quarterfinals on Thursday.

email: nmasuda@newspress.com

Muncy, Dodgers rally past Padres, 11-10

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

LOS ANGELES — Max Muncy struck the final blow in a slugfest Sunday afternoon at Dodger Stadium, as his double to right field off Kirby Yates walked off the Padres 11-10 in the ninth inning.

To that point, both teams had held the lead twice and were tied once in the middle. Four times, one scored and the other answered in the next half-inning.

The Dodgers went up 3-0 in the bottom of the second; the Padres scored five in the top of the third. The Padres added a run in the fourth; the Dodgers scored three in the inning's bottom half to tie it 6-6. The Dodgers went up 7-6 in the bottom of the sixth; the Padres took back the lead in the top of the seventh and added two runs in the eighth.

Craig Stammen stranded the runner on first base he inherited from starter Chris Paddack with no outs in the fifth inning and allowed A.J. Pollock's solo homer in the sixth. After Trey Wingenter pitched a perfect

Please see **DODGERS** on **B2**



NICK MASUDA / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

Brandon Gama hits out of a greenside bunker on No. 18, a hole that he would par. Gama and partner John Gillis fired a 3-under 67 to finish T-7.

Schaeffer and Crawford use hot finish to capture Classic title

■ CLASSIC

Continued from B1

saying that he nearly left to get back on the road home.

"We figured we'd be a couple short," Crawford said.

The small group that followed the playoff got a front-row seat for Schaeffer's unique putting style, something that his friends have named "Schaeff-on" — or face-on putting.

Schaeffer developed the putter, which Bryson DeChambeau used on the PGA Tour for a short time.

"I'm very passionate about putting," Schaeffer said. "It's a USGA approved putter."

Pavletich and Hale played in the Classic for the first time as a duo, making the trek from Bakersfield.

"We'll be back, this was fun," Hale said.

While Schaeffer and Crawford fired a 61, scores were not as low on Sunday afternoon, a mixture of tournament nerves and tough — but fair — pin placements.

Bob Becker was making his return to the tournament after a 25-year hiatus, teaming up with longtime friend Matt Hertel to take solo third after Becker chipped in for birdie on the 18th.

"It's the longest 6,050-yard golf course out there," Becker said. "So many blind shots, the pins were really hard. Maybe some guys would say the pins were unfair, but they were just



Bob Becker, left, is congratulated by playing partner Matt Hertel after Becker chipped in for birdie on No. 18.

hard. Very fair."

Hertel explained that with a shorter course, players know that the pins have to be a bit more tucked.

"Guys can hit it so far, you have to make the greens a bit more difficult," Hertel said.

In the San Miguel flight, Dan Vordale and Daniel Vordale won by seven shots; in the Santa

Rosa flight, Gregory Hash and John Ulman pulled off a one-shot win behind a final-round 61; and, finally, Chris Dailey and Bryce Schimmel won the Anacapa flight, firing a second consecutive 63 to win by a shot over four groups.

With all flight winners reaching well into double-digits under par, Schaeffer had only one

explanation.

"This is a gem of a golf course, I've been saying that forever," Schaeffer said.

"The strategy is so unique. If you get off your game, it'll get you. It'll also reward great play. There is a strategy involved to play it properly."

email: nmasuda@newspress.com



At left, Brian Helton celebrates a birdie on No. 15. He and his brother, Scott, held the overnight lead by one shot, but fired a final-round 68 to finish three shots off the pace. Above, Stephen Hale, center, and Mark Pavletich, right, congratulate Bobby Schaeffer and Tyler Crawford.

Does Tiger have anything left in the tank for the start of the FedEx Cup playoffs?

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Since his stunning Masters win in April, we haven't seen a while lot of Tiger Woods. The elusive Tiger act has happened for a couple of reasons. Changes to the major championship schedule and Woods' attempt to keep his four-time surgically repaired back healthy have kept Woods out of competition for long stretches.

Woods has played in just four tournaments since the Masters. He missed the cut in the PGA at Bethpage Black in May, finished tied for 9th at the Memorial, tied for 21st in the U.S. Open and missed the cut in the British Open.

He hasn't played since struggling through the British Open a month ago. He's back this week for the Northern Trust Open, the first tournament of the FedEx Cup playoffs at Liberty National in Jersey City.

The question is how much does he have left in the tank this season, and how rusty will he be with so few rounds of competitive golf over the past four months?

He's also committed to the second tournament of the playoffs, the BMW, in two weeks at Medinah Country Club outside Chicago. If he plays well enough to be in the top 30, he'll make the Tour Championship to complete the FedEx Cup playoffs.

Woods has good vibes at Liberty National, finishing second in both 2009 and 2013. He's the biggest draw everywhere he plays and will certainly feel the crowd support from the tri-state area fans.

He's out of majors this season, but there's another huge milestone Woods his chasing. His next win would be No. 82,

tying him with Sam Snead for the most PGA Tour victories of all time.

"Tiger is special and he is clearly a draw," tournament executive director Julie Tyson told the Daily News. "Tiger finished runner up in 2009 and 2013, the previous two times the Northern Trust was played at Liberty National, so he sure has a positive history here, and the New York/New Jersey crowds truly love him."

The field will be stacked, naturally. World No. 1 Brooks Koepka, the probable Player of the Year is playing, along with Rory McIlroy and defending FedEx Cup champ Justin Rose. Most of the top 125 players will be at Liberty National.

"You also have competitors like Brooks Koepka, who has dominated this year and storylines like Rory McIlroy winning twice this season.

... One thing is for sure, the Playoffs will be exciting. This year's field is shaping up to be the biggest and best yet," Tyson said.

More pressure comes with this year's event, since the playoffs have been cut from four tournaments to three. The top 70 players in FedEx Cup points advance to Medinah.

All eyes will be on Woods to see if he looks like the Tiger who won the green jacket in April or the Tiger who looked overmatched at the British Open.

"This (tri-state) area demands your best. Whether that's in work, in life, in sports or in any aspect," Tyson said. "The people here demand your A-game and that is exactly what the PGA Tour has brought to the area, our very best talent and at the peak of their season."

Poston makes it a home-state victory at Wyndham Championship

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GREENSBORO — For all the international golfers holding the top spot in the Wyndham Championship during the four-day tournament, it came down something much more down home. J.T. Poston of Hickory won for the first time on the PGA Tour with a bogey-free tournament, capturing the championship Sunday at Sedgefield Country Club.

Poston's final-round 8-under par 62 gave him a one-shot victory on Webb Simpson, another North Carolinian. Poston was 22-under 258 for the tournament.

Simpson, who was the 2011 champion here, shot 65 for second place for the second year in a row.

The last time a player won a 72-hole PGA Tour event without a bogey was Lee Trevino in 1974 in New Orleans.

"The putter was definitely the biggest part I would say down the stretch," Poston said. "Made some good par putts,

and that one on (No.) 18 definitely had some nerves behind it. It was awesome."

Third-round leader Byeong Hun An closed with 67 and ended up in third place. He went to the 18th hole with a chance to force a playoff but instead had a bogey.

It marked the final event of the PGA Tour's regular season, moved up a few weeks from the past. An's first bogey of the tournament came on the par-5 15th when he took a penalty stroke after his wayward tee shot. He responded with a birdie on the next hole.

Poston, 26, won two individual state championships for Hickory High School. He played collegiately for Western Carolina. Poston began the final round tied for fifth place.

Simpson, a former Wake Forest golfer who's from Raleigh and now lives in Charlotte, bogeyed two of the first three holes. He putted in from off the green for a birdie on No. 7, and later recorded birdies on four of the last five holes.

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