

# CSGA

CONNECTICUT STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION

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Founded in 1899, the CSGA is the country's oldest state golf association and, as an Allied Golf Association of the USGA, provides stewardship for amateur golf in Connecticut. In addition to administering handicaps for over 40,000 members at 181 member clubs, the CSGA conducts more than 85 days of competition throughout the year for golfers of all ages, genders, and skill levels. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the CSGA supports a variety of golf organizations within Connecticut, including the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference, Connecticut Section PGA, Connecticut Women's Golf Association, CSGA Scholarship Fund in honor of Widdy Neale, LPGA-Amateur Golf Association, Southern New England Women's Golf Association, and The First Tee of Connecticut.

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2024





# 2024 ANNUAL

A review of the 2024 season and the championships conducted by the Connecticut State Golf Association

At Shorehaven Golf Club Jackson Roman was clicking on all cylinders.

Cover Photo: Cody Paladino had a banner year in 2024.



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# DEAR FELLOW GOLFERS,



The 2024 tournament season showcased some exciting finishes and impressive performances which are detailed in this year's Connecticut State Golf Association Championship Annual.

The year itself saw continued demand and increased player participation across all CSGA competitions, from our One Day Tournament series to our major championships and qualifiers. We are grateful for our member clubs, both public and private, for accommodating our events and providing challenging venues to test our players' skills and abilities.

The amount of effort that goes into conducting these competitions is significant. The dedication and commitment by our entire CSGA staff to make each and every tournament great is a major factor in our success. Additionally, our volunteers, whether it be a tournament starter, rules official, match play referee, or on course official, devote hours and hours of their time over the course of the season because of their love of the game.

Additionally, join me in congratulating all our 2024 champions, our Volunteer of the Year Walt Chapman, our Walter 'Bud' Smith Distinguished Club Award winner Indian Hill Country Club, and our Hall of Fame inductees John J. "Jack" Bracken III, Del Kinney, Jr., and Joan Joyce.

Enjoy the "off-season" and we look forward to another great year in 2025.

Sincerely,

Ed Detmer  
President, Connecticut State Golf Association



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Jack Bracken and Austin Perkins



Maisie Filler

C.J. Konkowski



Cody Paladino

# SOMETHING IN THE WATER AT HARTFORD GOLF CLUB

They've got a really nice, fully stocked bar at Hartford Golf Club, but it wasn't the distilled spirits that instilled magic among a number of their players in 2024. Charles "C.J." Konkowski doesn't drink on the job, Austin Perkins is too young to be served, and his mentor, Jack Bracken is a known teetotaler. The last thing on Maisie Filler's mind when she comes back home is booze, and Cody Paladino would rather knock one stiff than knock back a stiff one.

Must be something in the water at HGC. Or maybe it's the food. Those little cheeseburger sliders double wrapped in foil at the

snack shack you pass three or four times out on the course.

Maybe it's the perfect playing conditions cultivated by golf course superintendent, Curtis D'Anna, or the happy atmosphere engendered by head pro, Richard Bray. Whatever it is, something inspiring is happening at Hartford with all the unprecedented winning and history making that emerged from that singular club this year.

Not since way back in the day when Wethersfield players like R.M. and Jim Grant, Fred Kask, Bill Brew, Allan Breed and Roger Everin seemed to dominate

everything, have golfers from one club produced so many victories in a single season.

Hartford Golf Club's Cody Paladino won the Palmer Cup in May. Not too surprising given that it was the third time Cody claimed the championship named for former Hartford Golf Club President and CSGA Executive Director, Russell C. Palmer. But a few weeks later in mid-June, Hartford's Austin Perkins accomplished something almost unimaginable. Perkins, a 16 year-old yet to receive a driver's license, drove his golf ball around Torrington's historic layout better

than anyone in the 120-player field, and became the youngest ever winner of the nation's oldest state amateur championship.

In July it was Maisie Filler's turn. The University of Florida All-American and recent graduate who still calls Hartford Golf Club home, claimed the Connecticut Women's Amateur after a stellar 7-under par performance over 54 holes at Tashua Knolls. Maisie's victory marked only the second time in history that the Men's and Women's Amateur champs were from the same club in the same year (2014 - Zach Zaback and Kelly Whaley from TPC River Highlands). And with Cody's victory in May it was the first time ever that the Palmer Cup and both Amateurs belonged to players from the same club at the same time.

Hartford professional, C.J. Konkowski got into the act at the end of August when he won the PGA Section's Assistant Championship, one day before Cody won another

CSGA major, the Mid-Amateur. That title secured Cody's place in history as the only player ever to have won all five CSGA men's majors - the Public Links (2006), Palmer Cup (2013, 2022, 2024), Amateur (2013), Open (2015) and Mid-Am (2024).

C.J. then capped off the amazing string of HGC wins with another huge victory in September when he beat Chris Tallman 1-up 19 holes in the PGA Section Match Play Championship.

Watching all this unfold with great delight was longtime Hartford member, Jack Bracken, a champion in his own right who has won HGC's club championship in four different decades. For both his playing accomplishments and his longtime service to golf in Connecticut, Jack was inducted into the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame at the CSGA's Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet in December.

All in all a pretty amazing year for Hartford Golf Club's finest. A cartload of tournament victories and a Hall of Fame induction. They're the envy of clubs and competitors throughout Connecticut. If it really is the food or the water, don't be surprised to see visitors stopping by HGC to fill their bottles in 2025, or sneak some sliders from the snack shack. Then again, maybe it's just a combination of talent and hard work, the type of thing that can inspire all of us to spend less time in the bar, and more time on the practice range.

- Mike Moraghan  
CSGA, Executive Director

# THE OPEN

## Jackson Roman Made History at Shorehaven

An eagle on the opening hole jump started the amateur's final round charge.





**W**hen Jackson Roman stepped onto the tee to begin the final round of the 90th Connecticut Open presented by GSB he trailed by two shots. By the time he walked off the first green at Shorehaven Golf Club, he was in the lead by one and the stage had been set for a historic day.

Roman (Shuttle Meadow CC) began the final round 8-under and two shots behind 36-hole leader Chris Fosdick (Middlefield, Conn.) but when Fosdick pulled his drive on the 505-yard opening par-5 out of bounds the door had suddenly been kicked wide open.

The Loyola University senior began his day with a piped drive down the middle of the fairway. With a green light pin location Roman played aggressively landing his approach shot within 15 feet of the cup setting up an opening hole eagle.

Meanwhile, Fosdick was struggling and when his 10-foot par putt burned the edge, Roman at 10-under had taken the lead.

“I don’t even think it really resonated with me that I had the lead at that point,” Roman said. “I was still a little bit nervous because I’ve had trouble coming out the gates in final rounds.”

On this day Roman showed no sign of nerves. Following his opening hole eagle Roman birdied the challenging 170-yard uphill par-3 second and when Fosdick bogeyed his second straight hole a two-shot deficit had been turned into a three-shot lead in a blink.

However, Fosdick wasn’t going to go away quietly. Beginning with a tap-in birdie on the par-4 third the two-time Connecticut Amateur winner birdied three holes in a row to move into a tie for the lead at 11-under.

The two would still be tied at 11-under as they made the turn for the final nine.

With the crowd following the action growing, Fosdick briefly took the lead after Roman bogeyed No. 10, and he continued to hold that lead as both players parred the par-5 11th.

Looking to make something happen on the 500-yard par-5 12th Roman pushed his tee shot into the right rough and faced a second shot impeded by a branch. His next swing and the four ensuing shots would define the day.

Seemingly in a layup situation Roman had a small window to attack the green and hit a low stinger that stayed below the branch and landed on the fringe just above the hole. Facing a lightning quick putt Roman nipped it perfectly lagging his eagle try to tap-in range and moving back into a tie at 11-under.

“That might have been the fastest putt I’ve ever hit,” Roman said. “I just kind of took a line, bumped it out, and then stood there and hoped it would stop and luckily it did next to the hole.”

With momentum on his side, Roman would take full control of the tournament with his next swing. After conferring with his caddie and sister Kenna Roman, the 2024 U.S. Amateur competitor pulled six iron as his club of choice into the 213-yard par-3 13th.



Jackson Roman and his sister Kenna (both pictured far left) watch the title clinching putt closely. Chris Fosdick (above left) nearly won his first professional event at the site of his 2020 Connecticut Amateur title. The Ballo brothers Pete (middle) and Mike (below) once again turned in strong performances. Across three gorgeous days at Shorehaven GC the players were supported by large crowds (above).

### The Meaning of Victory

“It means so much to me. There are so many good players who have come through Connecticut. I mean, I probably don’t even know half of them. This is such a tough golf course and the field is amazing. I couldn’t be happier right now.”

- Jackson Roman

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Jackson Roman then took a mighty lash and sent his ball hurtling into the bright blue sky. Once the ball left his club it was never heading anywhere but the pin coming to rest just four feet from the cup. Locked in now Roman brushed in the birdie putt to move to 12-under and when Fosdick bogeyed the hole the lead was now two shots.

That lead would be extended to three shots after he picked up a stroke on the par-3 15th setting up a stress-free stroll to the house.



**The Rob Dibble Show (above) aired live on the radio the first two days from Shorehaven GC. Meanwhile Cody Paladino (below left) and Clark Robinson (below right) were both in the mix throughout the week.**

Knowing that his pursuers needed to catch him Roman played steady golf paring Nos. 16 and 17 before adding a birdie on the closing par-4 to secure the title at 12-under.

The victory for Roman was also a historic one as he became the first amateur since Jeff Hedden in 2008 to capture the Connecticut Open.

"It means so much to me," Roman said of his victory. "There are so many good players who have come through Connecticut. I mean, I probably don't even know half of them. This is such a tough golf course and the field is amazing. I couldn't be happier right now."

Fosdick, a winner of the 2020 Connecticut Amateur at Shorehaven GC, finished in second place and as the low professional at 9-under. The recent University of Virginia graduate earned his first career check taking home the \$15,000 first place prize. Overall, the purse size was \$75,000.



**90th Connecticut Open presented by GSB**  
**Shorehaven Golf Club - Norwalk, Conn. - Par 71 / 6,550 yards - Entries: 550**  
**July 29-31, 2024**

<b>1 Jackson Roman (a), Shuttle Meadow CC</b>	<b>70-64-67-201</b>	<b>T5 Jason Thresher, West Suffield, Conn.</b>	69-67-71-207
<b>2 Christopher Fosdick, Wallingford CC</b>	68-64-72-204	<b>T5 Clark Robinson, Wethersfield CC</b>	69-67-71-207
<b>T3 Danny Balin, White Plains, NY</b>	67-73-66-206	<b>T5 Cody Paladino (a), Hartford GC</b>	68-68-71-207
<b>T3 Mike Ballo, Jr., Tamarack CC</b>	67-69-70-206	<b>T5 Anthony Guerrero (a), Watertown GC</b>	67-68-72-207
<b>T5 Peter Ballo, Connecticut GC</b>	68-70-69-207		





# AMATEURS

Clutch shot making, jubilation, and heartbreak. 2024 saw it all.



# CODY PALADINO WINS IN DRAMATIC FASHION

Early in the final round it looked like Cody Paladino might run away from the field however in the end he needed some **late heroics in a four-way playoff to emerge victorious.**

**W**ith the sun setting in the background an early morning had turned into a late evening. Three players had battled for 37 holes but still, an outcome at the 21st Russell C. Palmer Cup presented by Chris Cote's Golf Shop had not been determined.

Around every corner on a picture-perfect day at the Country Club of Waterbury the unpredictable had played out. There had been heroic shots and there had been disasters. Every time it felt like the type had been set a new storyline emerged.

At various moments throughout a final round that will long be remembered as many as four players had an opportunity to seize the trophy. Cody Paladino (Hartford GC) got as low as 5-under early in the final round before falling back. Connor Goode (Glastonbury Hills CC) hung tough all day long and after a birdie on No. 16, he was in a position to win. 2009 champion Thomas McCarthy (EClub of Connecticut) was steady all week long and had a putt to win on the 54th hole. Meanwhile, Ben Boyd (EClub of Connecticut) bided his time before rallying late with birdies on each of the last two holes to thrust himself into the picture.

When the dust settled and all the scores had been tallied Paladino, Goode, McCarthy, and Boyd had all finished with 54-



**Cody Paladino (above and left) reacts to his winning birdie putt.**

hole totals of 1-under sending play to extra holes.

On the first playoff hole, all but McCarthy managed a par sending the remaining three back to the tee of the par-4 18th for the 38th hole of the day.

Of the three Paladino was the only player to hit the green with his approach shot leaving himself a 35-foot putt up the hill for birdie. Goode from just short of the green hit a good lag putt to set up a par try. However, it was a par try he would never attempt.

After stalking the putt from all angles Paladino stepped over the ball. With one more look towards his target, he sent the ball hurtling towards the cup. From the instant it left his putter it looked to be on line and moments later when the ball slammed into the bottom of the cup Paladino unleashed a fist pump that seemed to release all the frustrations of his day.

Momentarily lost in the unexpected excitement caused by Paladino's putt was the fact that Boyd still had a chance from just about the same distance to match. Boyd,

**21st Russell C. Palmer Cup presented by Chris Cote's Golf Shop  
Country Club of Waterbury - Waterbury, Conn. - Par 69/ 6,550 yards - Entries: 252  
May 20-21, 2024**

<b>1</b> Cody Paladino, Hartford GC	<b>66-69-71-206</b>	6 Greg Reilly, CC of Darien	67-73-70-210
T2 Connor Goode, Glastonbury Hills CC	67-69-70-206	T7 Richard Dowling, Golf Performance Ctr.	72-73-66-211
T2 Thomas McCarthy, EClub of Connecticut	69-69-68-206	T7 Mike Kennedy, Tashua Knolls GC	71-73-67-211
T2 Ben Boyd, EClub of Connecticut	67-70-69-206	T7 Adam Friedman, Great River GC	72-70-69-211
5 Alex Jenkins, Black Hall Club	70-70-69-209	T7 Nicholas Waddington, Manchester CC	72-71-68-211

who had birdied No. 18, to get into the playoff couldn't recreate the magic and once his putt slid by the title belonged to Cody Paladino for a record third time.

"It's hard to win tournaments. It's not like I've never won, so this is my first time trying to win. I think it's just hard to win, and fortunately for me, I'm in the mix a good amount, so that's great, but I'm just hoping to close the door more often because that winning feeling is so special, and that's what keeps me coming back," said Cody Paladino.

Paladino, the winner of the 2013 and 2022 Russell C. Palmer Cup, looked as if he was going to run away and hide early in the final round. Following a second round even-par 69 Paladino began the final round 3-under and the leader by one shot over Goode (-2), two shots better than Boyd (-1), and three shots in front of McCarthy (E).

Four pars began the final round for Paladino and after back-to-back birdies on Nos. 5 and 6 to reach 5-under and take a four-stroke lead it looked as if Paladino was in the driver's seat. That all changed with one swing. In between clubs on the difficult par 4 seventh Paladino sent his tee shot out of bounds and ended up triple-bogeying the hole. Now reeling he compounded the mistake with a short par miss on the par-3 eighth.

Just like that the field was back in the game. With the trophy now up for grabs four players – Paladino, Goode, Boyd, and McCarthy – all held at least a share of the lead at some point during the second nine.

Paladino caught a fortunate break on the scorable par-5 ninth when his second shot appeared destined for a watery finish but instead, it skipped out of the pond and came to rest on dry land 50 yards short of the green. With a wedge in hand, Paladino flipped his third shot to four feet which resulted in a birdie that moved him back to 2-under at the turn.

One group ahead, Goode and McCarthy were grinding as well. McCarthy after a birdie on the par 4 16th reached 2-under and put himself in a position to win the tournament with pars on each of the last two holes. McCarthy, a star on the Yale golf team from 2007-2011, scrambled for par on No. 17 after missing the fairway left. Fast forward to the closing par 4 McCarthy had an eight-footer to get into the house at 2-under but the putt wouldn't drop resulting in a bogey and a 1-under finish.

That bogey set off a sequence of events that eventually led to a four-way playoff. First, Goode a standout at UConn, who was playing alongside McCarthy joined him in the clubhouse at 1-under.

For a brief moment, it looked as if either Goode or McCarthy would be the winner

but Paladino and Boyd had other ideas. Paladino bogeyed Nos. 13 and 14 to drop back to even-par but a birdie on the par-4 15th returned him to 1-under and put him in a position to earn a spot in the playoff.

Paladino's, playing partner in the final group, Ben Boyd had been playing steady golf but it didn't appear as if he was going to be part of the final script. However, Boyd, a senior at Trinity and the 2024 NESCAC Golfer of the Year decided late in the final round that he didn't want to be forgotten.

Following a 3-over 38 on the front nine to drop to 2-over Boyd knew he needed to go low on the back and he did just that. Boyd began his charge with a birdie on No. 13 to move to 1-over and stay in touch with the lead group. Still needing to do some work he knocked his approach shot on No. 17 to 10 feet and rolled in the ensuing birdie putt. Just minutes later Boyd repeated the sequence with another birdie on the 18th to join the crowd at 1-under.

In spite of all the haymakers thrown and twists and turns on this day, Paladino was able to have the final say.

"It was a long day," Paladino said. "I felt pretty good after the first round and I had pretty good control over things. (But today) was very, very up and down, up and down, up and down, all the way until the very last putt in the playoff."



**Ben Boyd (above right) birdied the last two holes to get into the playoff. Connor Goode (opposite right) and Thomas McCarthy (far right) each held the lead at points during the final round. Alex Jenkins (below) rounded out the top five.**



# ONE FOR THE AGES!

Austin Perkins outlasted Jack Chung in a battle between the youngest finalists in the history of the Connecticut Amateur.



It's rare when you get to experience the past, the present, and the future all at the same time. But throughout the week, and especially on the final day of the 2024 Connecticut Amateur, everyone at Torrington Country Club felt that span of time across multiple generations.

Torrington and the CSGA had planned for years to hold the 2024 championship at the Goshen club in part as a way of celebrating a pair of anniversaries. It would be 50 years since TCC legend, Dick "Wiggy" Weigold won the Amateur (at Waterbury) in 1974, and 30 years since PGA Tour star, J.J. Henry won the first of his three Amateur titles right there at Torrington in 1994.

A nice way to recognize a pair of distinguished past champions on their anniversary years, while crowning a new one in 2024.

A text message to 49 year-old, J.J. early in the week - "We're at Torrington playing the Connecticut Amateur!" - brought an immediate reply - "So Cool! Lots of great memories. I remember it well. Ironically, I'm caddying for my son this week in the Texas State Amateur at the exact same age I was when my Dad was on the bag for me that week!"

As for 82 year-old Dick Weigold, who still owns Torrington's course record (63) along with nine club championships, he remained busy all week making sure his club provided exceptional hospitality for Connecticut's best amateurs. Wiggy needn't have worried. Thanks to head pro Glenn Carlson, superintendent Dan Huften and a fully engaged membership, Torrington always delivers a great championship.

The golf itself provided a number of startling upsets and a clear view of the future. 20 year-old Mike Rothberg, the always smiling junior at Sacred Heart who plays out of Mill River, did the unthinkable in knocking off odds-on favorite Cody Paladino 3&1 in the quarters. 35 year-old Cody, sought to claim the title he'd narrowly missed in the Amateur finals at Torrington 18 years earlier in 2006. In what was then the 104th playing of the championship, 17 year-old runner-up Cody and 17 year-old eventual champion Tommy McDonagh emerged as

the youngest finalists ever in the history of the nation's oldest state amateur. A mark that would stand until, of course, this year.

Rothberg's victory wasn't the only exciting quarterfinal upset. Ashton Lewis knocked off 2022 champ Ben Carpenter in 19 holes, and 16 year-old Austin Perkins dragged two-time former champion and recently reinstated amateur Zach Zaback to the 21st hole before securing a place in the semis.

In the lower bracket, another 16 year-old, Jack Chung put together back-to-back David v Goliath victories. Chung, a little guy with a great swing, pounded a giant in Tommy Dallahan 7&6 in the round of 16, before ousting another physical specimen in Adam Friedman, 19 holes in the quarters.

All while Dick Weigold smoked his cigars and marveled at "the kids."

You had the feeling that during a week when the past was present in so many minds, something historical might happen. And so it did when Perkins beat Lewis, and Chung beat Rothberg to produce a final match of two 16 year-olds, the youngest-ever finalists in what was now the 122nd playing of the Connecticut Amateur.

Sometimes kids sleep in, and the morning 18 of the finals was a bit of a yawn. Austin Perkins was efficient and steady while Jack Chung, after starting with a birdie to win the first hole of the match, was off his game just enough to fall 6-down to Austin when the pair stopped for lunch.

Concluding the break, a brief ceremony honored Wiggy Weigold, with over 100 Torrington members gathered around the first tee as Austin and Jack leaned on their drivers and paid their respects to a man more than six decades their senior. CSGA Executive Director Mike Moraghan said nice things about his lifelong friend and mentor and presented Wiggy with the same bowl he'd held as champion 50 years earlier. Wiggy for his part, spoke about the opportunities presented to him after winning the Amateur, and how proud he was to have represented Torrington for so many years. Then it was back to the match and the teenagers again taking center stage.

With Austin still six up after 21 holes, most would have thought the match was all but over. But not Bob Sparks. Bob has had his finger on the pulse of junior golf in Connecticut for many years and has worked with and coached dozens of Connecticut's best youngsters including Jack Chung.

As the boys walked off the third green, Bob said, "Oh boy. Jack has that look in his eye. I've seen that before. Don't be surprised if we see a real comeback in this match."

Right on cue, Jack Chung stuffed it to a near impossible front-left location on Torrington's fourth for a conceded birdie, then rolled in back-to-back 10-footers for birdies on five and six. After a rare Austin three-putt on Torrington's treacherous seventh green, Jack won his fourth straight hole after canning a five-footer for par.

In a span of roughly 40 minutes (neither of these kids fiddle around when playing tournament golf) Austin Perkins' lead shrunk from 6-up to 2-up. But as if to say "enough is enough" Austin rolled in an 18-footer on top of yet another Jack Chung birdie at the eighth, then buried a 25-footer for birdie on nine to get his lead back to 3-up. Punch, counter punch. Fantastic golf. Match play at its best.

In a week where 120 golfers arrived at Torrington on Monday, each with their own story and each owning a plethora of thrills and disappointments as the championship played out, it had come down to these two boys. Two boys younger than Cody Paladino was when he made the finals in 2006. Two boys younger than J.J. Henry when he won in 1994 with his father on the bag, just as Austin the father was on the bag for Austin the son in the semis, and John the father was on the bag for Jack the son in the finals.

The record books will show that Austin Perkins defeated Jack Chung 3&1 to become the youngest winner in the 122-year history of the Connecticut Amateur. But for all who witnessed the extraordinary events that week it will be remembered as one of the greatest amateur championships ever - one for all the ages.



Runner-up Jack Chung (left) had a sharp short game throughout the week. 2018 champion Ben Conroy (above) won his opening match in 22 holes before falling in the Round of 16. Between the first and second rounds of the championship match Dick "Wiggy" Weigold (below) was honored by CSGA Executive Director Mike Moraghan. On the following page Austin Perkins strikes an approach shot.







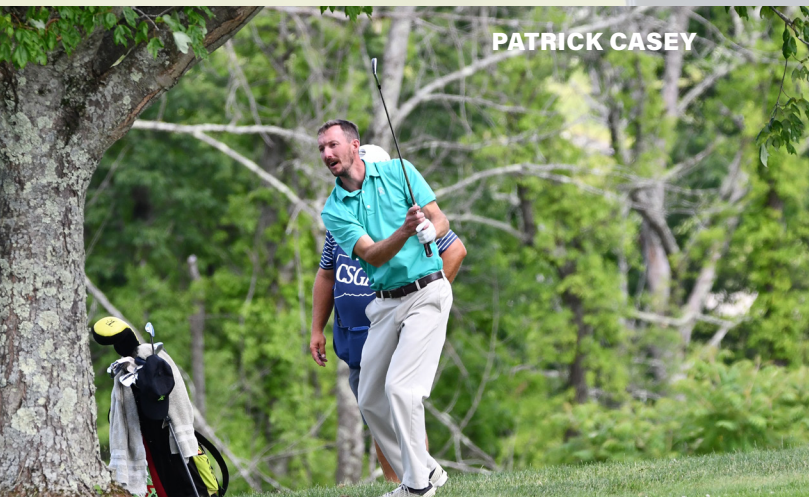
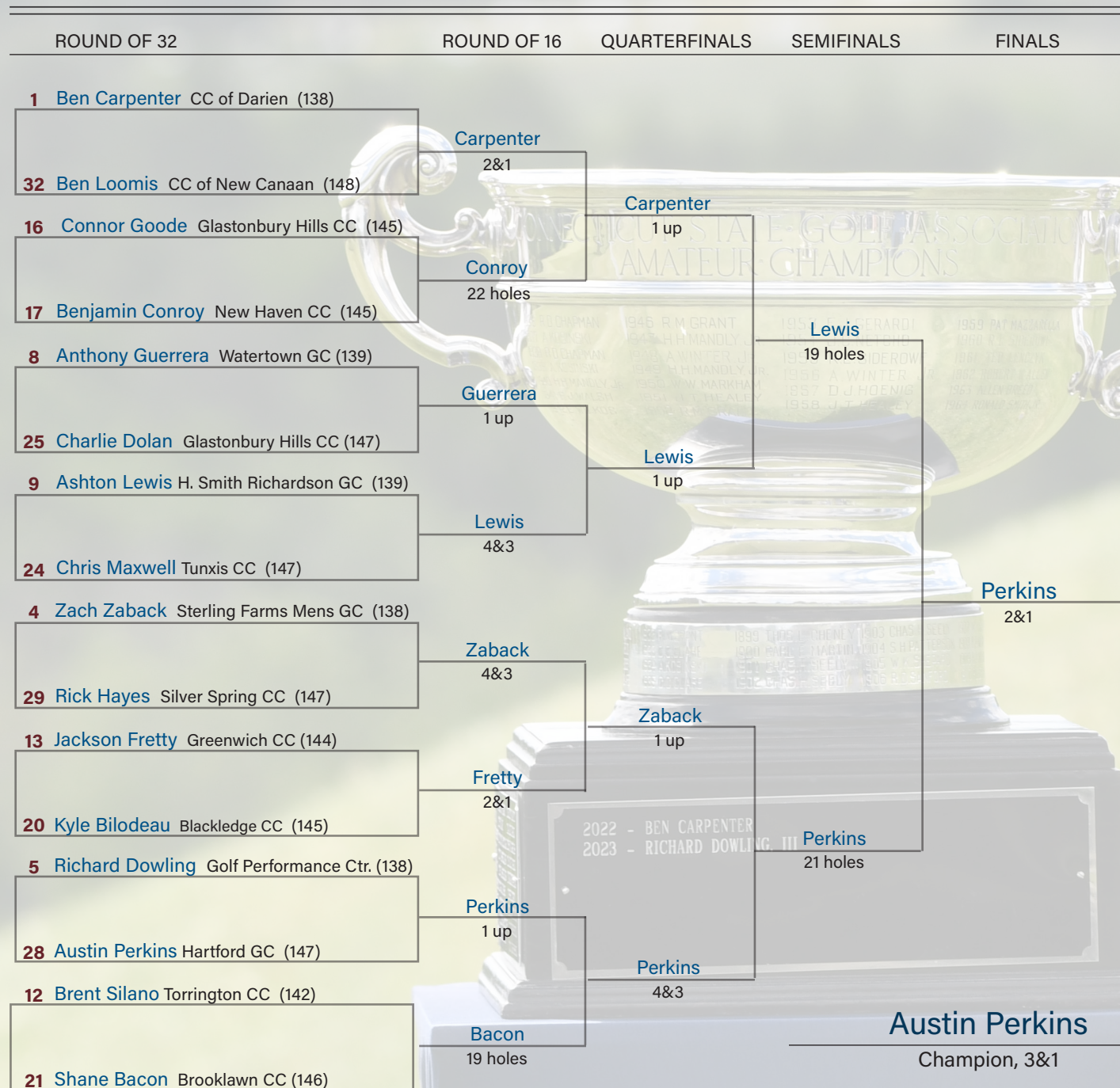
Just weeks after completing a stellar career at Eastern Connecticut State University Ashton Lewis (top left) made a run to the semifinals. Sacred Heart standout Mike Rothberg (top right) upset Cody Paladino (above) in the quarterfinals.

In his return to the Connecticut Amateur two-time champion Zach Zaback (top left) was a co-medalist and reached the quarterfinals. Meanwhile 2022 champion Ben Carpenter (top right) was a quarterfinalist and one of six medalists. Always a threat Adam Friedman (above) reached the quarterfinals where he fell to runner-up Jack Chung in 19 holes.

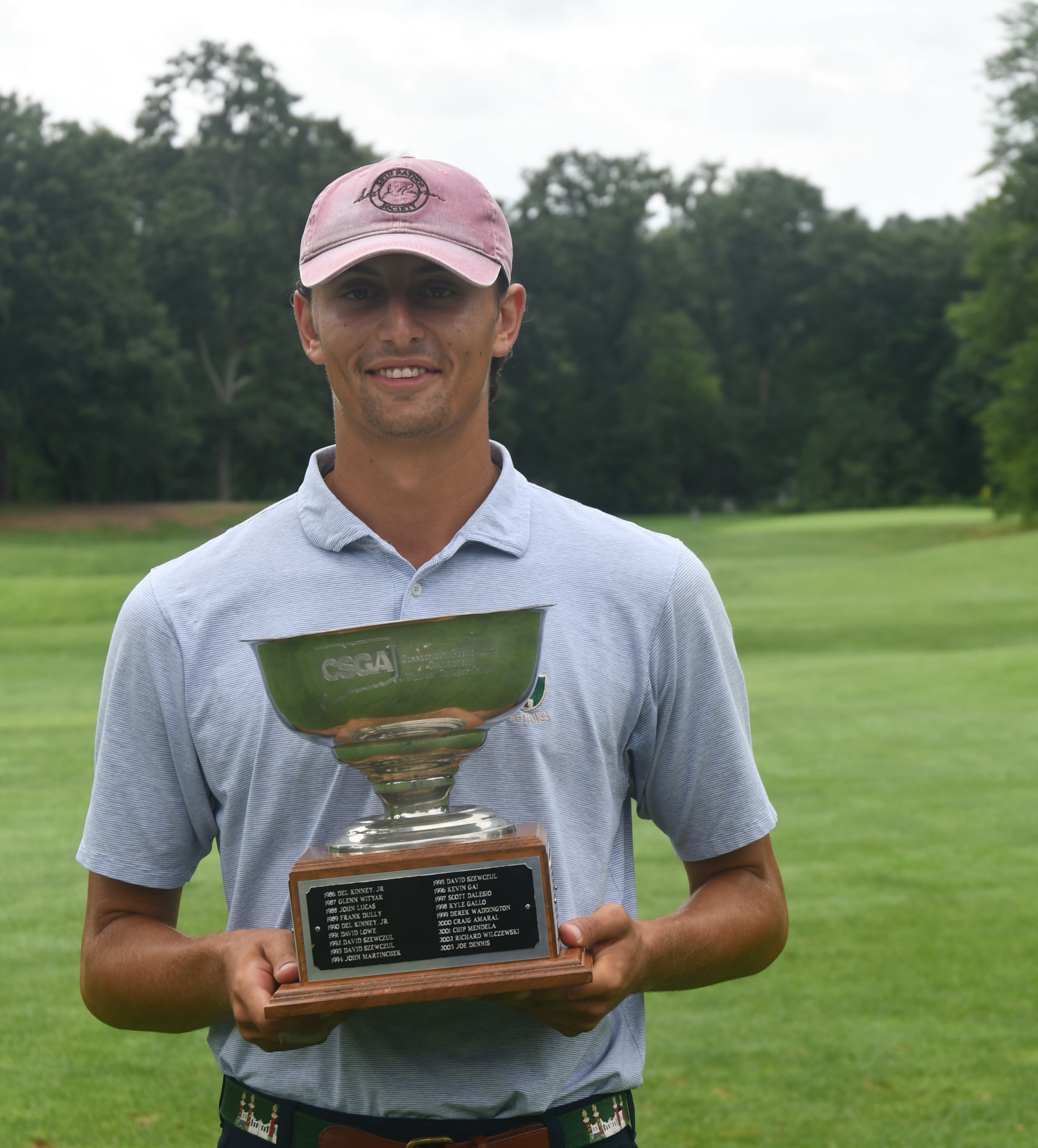
# 122nd CONNECTICUT AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Torrington Country Club ~ Goshen, Conn. ~ Par 72 / 6,650 yards ~ Entries: 336

June 10-14, 2024







39th CONNECTICUT PUBLIC LINKS

# ADAM FRIEDMAN WINS IN A PLAYOFF

Adam Friedman battled sloppy conditions at Keney Park Golf Course to emerge with his first **CSGA major title**.

After two days of grinding in soggy conditions at the 39th Connecticut Public Links Adam Friedman surveyed a 21-foot birdie putt on the first extra hole, the 457-yard par-4 ninth at Keney Park Golf Course. If the putt fell Friedman would earn his first CSGA major title.



Runner-up Ashton Lewis (above) reacts to his clutch birdie on No. 17.

Friedman stalked the downhill putt from all angles before settling over the ball. Then with little hesitation, Friedman sent the ball rolling towards the hole. From the moment the ball left the putter it only had eyes for the bottom of the cup and once it dropped Friedman was able to celebrate his first CSGA major title.

“When I look back on this win, while it’s really great to finish first,” Friedman explained. “I can’t help but think about all the months and years of work and mistakes. (To finally) get to this point is great. It feels great, but I still feel like I have a lot more to prove to myself.”

Friedman (Great River GC) began the day leading by one shot and led by as many as three as play headed to the back nine. However, 2024 Connecticut Amateur semifinalist Ashton Lewis wasn’t going to go down without a fight.

Playing in the group ahead of Friedman, Lewis (H. Smith Richardson GC) played the front nine in 1-over 36 to make the turn in even-par but when he birdied the par-4 10th while Friedman bogeyed it the race was on, and with eight holes remaining Friedman led by just one.

With momentum on his side, Lewis pulled even with a birdie on the par-4 14th setting the stage for a dramatic finish. As the crowd following the action grew it was Friedman who made the first move of the stretch run.

On the 397-yard par-4 16th, Friedman landed a wedge 15 feet past the pin and watched as it spun back to eight feet. With a chance to regain the lead, Friedman rolled in the birdie putt to return to 3-under.

Meanwhile, up ahead on the 369-yard par-4 17th Lewis faced a 35-foot uphill birdie putt with a chance to pull even once again. When the recently graduated Eastern Connecticut State star’s putt disappeared into the hole he unleashed a vicious fist pump, and the lead was again tied.

After both players parred the 18th the Connecticut Public Links was headed for a playoff.

On the first extra hole with a chance to putt first, Lewis’ birdie attempt from 25 feet burned the edge clearing the way for Friedman’s winning 21 footer.

“Four or five years ago I had some physical setbacks which I’ve been able to correct, but I actually took a good chunk of time off and didn’t know how often I’d be able to practice or play,” said Friedman. “After the injury, I promised myself that I would do whatever I could to improve my game, and in the last 18 months, I have continuously improved. For that improvement, I have to give credit to my mental coach, my emotional focus therapist and I definitely can’t do anything without my parents and their support.”

# PALADINO BREAKS THROUGH

After four straight runner-up finishes Cody Paladino finally has his day in the sun at the Connecticut Mid-Amateur.



CONNECTICUT STATE GOLF ASSOCIATION MID-AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP	
1988 - Daniel Hendrickson	1995 - Joe Dennis
1989 - James DelGrego	1996 - David Szwecul
1990 - William Hermanson	1997 - James Gentile
1991 - William Hermanson	1998 - Kevin Foster
1992 - William Hermanson	1999 - William Hadden
1993 - William Hermanson	2000 - Thomas Evans
1994 - Joe Dennis	2001 - William Hermanson



**C**ody Paladino stood alone for a moment on the edge of the 18th green at Wampanoag Country Club staring out at the expansive sun-splashed landscape laid out before him. Paladino had just tapped in for par to finish off a dominant 14-under performance that resulted in his first career Connecticut Mid-Amateur title.

Paladino may have been pondering a multitude of past runner-up finishes in the Mid-Am, but more likely his thoughts centered on the family and friends cheering for him behind the 18th green. Those cheers made extra special because his almost two-year-old son Carter and his five-week-old daughter Peyton were watching him win for the first time.

“(Having my family) here is very special,” Cody Paladino said. “I’m actually surprised I’m not more emotional right now. I was getting emotional on Nos. 17 and 18. I felt like I was in pretty good shape and I started getting emotional thinking about them but I tried to keep myself in the moment.”

When the day started all eyes were on first round leader Rick Dowling (Golf Performance Center). The three-time defending champion opened with a 5-under 67 and he started the 36-hole final day with a chance to become just the second player to win four consecutive Connecticut Mid-Amateur titles.

However, from the get-go, the day belonged to Paladino. Beginning the second round on the 10th hole in a tie for second with Ben Day (New Haven CC) at 4-under, and paired with Dowling and Day for the second time in three years, Paladino started par-birdie-eagle on holes 10-12 to jump to 7-under.

“Even though it was the third hole of a 36-hole marathon I think that was a pretty big moment,” said Paladino, the winner of the Russell C. Palmer Cup earlier in the year.

Paladino did bogey the next hole, the long par-3 13th, but that would prove to be the only blemish on his second round scorecard that included six birdies, along with the eagle on 12. When all was said and done Paladino had fired an 8-under 64 and

he would begin the final round at 12-under and six shots clear of the field.

It was a cushion that Paladino would end up needing. After blitzing Wampanoag CC in the morning Paladino cooled off at the start of his final round shooting a 1-over 37 on the front nine to drop to 11-under and open the door for someone to try and steal the tournament.

That someone proved to be Adam Friedman (Great River GC). Following rounds of 71-67, the 2024 Connecticut Public Links champion began the final round 6-under par and wasted no time making his move playing the front nine in 2-under 34 to surge to 8-under. Friedman capped the side with a birdie on the challenging 190-yard par-3 ninth.

With Paladino now in his sights, Friedman began his second nine with a birdie on the par-4 10th and then remarkably pulled within one shot following a wonderful two-putt birdie from 40 feet above the hole on the par-5 11th.



**Cody Paladino (opposite) was stellar for three consecutive rounds. Thomas Labbe (left) capped off a strong week with a 4-under 68 in the final round. Anthony Guerrero (above) fired two under-par rounds while Adam Friedman (below) came out of the gates blazing in the final round to get within one shot of the lead on the back nine.**



### Par 5 Domination

Cody Paladino played the par-5s in a remarkable 11-under. For the week on the 12 par-5s Paladino birdied 10 times and eagled once.

An impressive par from the woods left of the green on the par-5 12th kept Friedman at minus-10 and one shot behind, but a bogey on No. 13 and a double-bogey on No. 15 did Friedman in as he finished 8-under and in solo third.

Unfazed by his front nine blemishes Paladino knew he had a chance to right the ship when he played the back-to-back par-5s early in his back nine.

With a chance to once again create separation, Paladino executed flawlessly. A 4 iron from 210 yards out found the tricky putting surface on No. 11. The resulting two-putt birdie moved Paladino back to 12-under.

On the 551-yard par-5 12th, Paladino once again hit a strong drive and then found the green from 230 yards out. Facing a 55-foot eagle try he lagged it to within a foot to get to 13-under. The result of the back-to-back birdies was a lead restored to three shots. For the week Paladino played Nos. 11 and 12 in 7-under carding five birdies and an eagle.

With a comfortable lead once again Paladino was able to throttle down and play smart golf on his way to the house. In the end, Paladino posted rounds of 68-64-70 to finish 14-under and five shots better than runner-up and 2019 winner Ben Day. Behind third place finisher Adam Friedman, the top five was rounded out by Thomas Labbe (Watertown GC) and Rick Dowling in a share of fourth place at 4-under.

“It’s easy to say every win is special but I would say just given the names that are on that trophy, lots of friends of mine – Rick Dowling, Ben Conroy, and Ben Day – to name a few it means a lot to have won,” Paladino expressed. “It was eating away at me a little bit to not have won.”

With the victory, Paladino also made history becoming the first player to win every men’s major championship. Paladino won his first major in 2006 at the Connecticut Public Links before going on to add victories at the Connecticut Amateur (2013), Russell C. Palmer Cup (2013, 2022, 2024),



**Rick Dowling (above) made a strong bid at a fourth straight title. Tim Murphy (above right) was steady all week while two-time winner Ben Conroy (right) found himself near the top of the leaderboard from the very beginning. 2019 champion Ben Day (opposite above) birdied the 54th hole to finish solo second while Rick Hayes (opposite) put together three impressive rounds.**



and Connecticut Open (2015). Additionally, Paladino won the New England Amateur in 2021.

“It isn’t often you get to be the first to do something for a golf association that’s the oldest in the country,” Paladino said. “I’m very honored to have that accolade and to have made some history.”

**37th Connecticut Mid-Amateur  
Wampanoag Country Club - West Hartford, Conn. - Par 72 / 6,900 yards - Entries: 262  
August 26-27, 2024**

<b>1 Cody Paladino, Hartford GC</b>	<b>68-64-70-202</b>	T6	Anthony Guerrero, Watertown GC	71-74-70-215
2 Benjamin Day, New Haven CC	68-70-69-207	T6	Benjamin Conroy, New Haven CC	70-72-73-215
3 Adam Friedman, Great River GC	71-67-70-208	T8	Rick Hayes, Silver Spring CC	73-72-71-216
T4 Thomas Labbe, Watertown GC	71-73-68-212	T8	Brian Kehoe, Brooklawn CC	69-71-76-216
T4 Richard Dowling, Golf Performance Ctr.	67-71-74-212	10	Tim Murphy, The Stanwich Club	69-73-76-218

# FIVE AND COUNTING FOR PALADINO

Cody Paladino's remarkable run continued in 2024. In May Paladino won his record third Russell C. Palmer Cup, and he bookended his CSGA season with his first Connecticut Mid-Amateur title. In between Paladino reached the quarterfinals of the Connecticut Amateur and tied for fifth at the Connecticut Open.

"This was my most consistent year statistically and maybe my best year as far as scoring average and results," Paladino said.

On the national stage Paladino competed in his fourth straight U.S. Mid-Amateur where he made match play for the second time and played in his first Crump Cup at the famed Pine Valley Golf Club. Paladino also reached the quarterfinals of the Walter J. Travis Invitational and had strong showings at both the Northeast Amateur and Terra Cotta Invitational.

When all was said and done the banner year resulted in Paladino's fifth consecutive Dick Tettelbach Player of the Year award and seventh overall.

"It's really special to me, to win this award," expressed Paladino. "There are a lot of guys who it means a lot to, and they work extremely hard and I'm just very honored and always very humbled to have that title. (Winning this award) is a combination of a lot of things. A lot of people help me with my golf game and then most importantly my wife Anna continues to give me the opportunity to keep working (towards my goals). I don't think there's any chance I would ever win player of the year if it wasn't for her. She is the mom and wife of the year every year."



# WOMEN

At the Connecticut Women's Open Susie Cavanagh broke through while at the Connecticut Women's Amateur one of the top amateurs in the world earned the title.



# IMPRESSIVE MAISIE FILLER WINS WOMEN'S AMATEUR

The 2024 University of Florida graduate and one of the top amateur players in the world **impressed from start to finish at Tashua Knolls Golf Course.**

**I**n the final round of the 59th Connecticut Women's Amateur Maisie Filler showed everybody why she was the 46th ranked player in the World Amateur Golf Rankings.

Beginning the final day at Tashua Knolls Golf Club 5-under and ahead by two shots Filler (Hartford GC) put on a final round clinic as she fired a 2-under 70 to finish 7-under and the winner by four strokes.

"It's great to have my name on this trophy," Maisie Filler said. "I haven't been able to play in this event for a while but I'm just really grateful to be back playing in Connecticut and I'm honored to have my name on the trophy."

Looking to create some separation early in the final round Filler parred the opening par-5 before jump starting her day with a four-foot birdie on No. 2 thanks to a flagged approach shot from 130 yards. Two pars followed before Filler stepped on the accelerator with back-to-back birdies on Nos. 5 and 6.

Following the round Filler highlighted her birdie on the 164-yard par-3 sixth that pushed her lead to four shots as the key moment in her round. "I hit a great iron shot to about 10 feet on No. 6 and made the putt," said Filler who played in the 2024 U.S. Women's Open a month earlier. "That birdie just kept my momentum going into the next few holes and that definitely stood out to me."

With momentum still on her side Filler converted another short birdie putt on the par-4 eighth to move to 9-under and following a par on No. 9 she made the turn in 4-under 32 and five shots clear of the field.



**Maisie Filler (right) hoisted the 59th Connecticut Women's Amateur trophy. Thanks to a stellar 5-under 67 in the second round Violet Robbins (above) earned a second place finish.**

Filler did ease off the gas a bit on the homeward nine but she had done more than enough through the first nine holes of the day to cruise to victory.

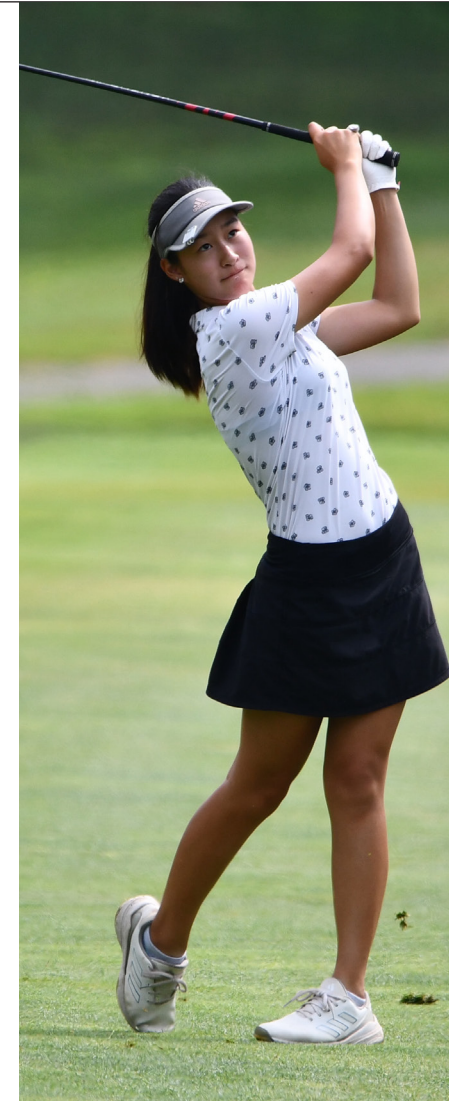
In just her third year playing golf, Violet Robbins (EClub of Connecticut) finished with rounds of 74-67-72 to post 3-under and finish in solo second place. The Rollins College freshman matched three birdies against three bogeys in the final round.

Defending champion Arabella Lopez (Redding CC) finished 1-under and in third place thanks to a closing 1-under 71.

One shot further back at even par in a tie for fourth were Juyeon Paek (Lyman Orchards GC) and first round leader Yvette O'Brien (Greenwich CC).

Other division winners included Lopez (Junior Division), Filler (Mid-Amateur Division), Cheryl Ziebka (Senior Division), and Debbie Johnson (Super Senior Division).





Maisie Filler (left) put on a ball striking display while Arabella Lopez (above right) put together a strong showing in her title defense finishing third. Juyeon Paek (above) and TCU commit Yvette O'Brien (below) shared fourth place.

**59th Women's Amateur Championship**  
**Tashua Knolls Golf Course - Trumbull, Conn.**  
**Par 72 / 5,700 yards Entries: 62**  
**July 15-17, 2024**

<b>1</b>	<b>Maisie Filler, Hartford GC</b>	<b>69-70-70-209</b>
2	Violet Robbins, EClub of Connecticut	74-67-72-213
3	Arabella Lopez, Redding CC	70-74-71-215
T4	Juyeon Paek, Lyman Orchards GC	71-75-70-216
T4	Yvette O'Brien, Greenwich CC	67-74-75-216
6	Annie Dai, CT PGA Jr. Golf Assoc.	71-73-73-217
7	Maya Robilio, EClub of Connecticut	72-77-72-221
8	Jessie Burch, EClub of Connecticut	79-70-74-223
T9	Laniah Moffett, EClub of Connecticut	77-75-72-224
T9	Allison Bauer, Burning Tree CC	75-77-72-224
T9	Cindy Cao, USGA/CSGA GC	75-72-77-224





## LATE HEROICS LIFT SUSIE CAVANAGH

The 25th Connecticut Women's Open culminated with a dramatic finish on the final hole at Madison Country Club.

Playing in the final group of the 25th Connecticut Women's Open presented by Crescent Point Private Wealth Susie Cavanagh needed a birdie on the par 5 closing hole to secure her first career professional victory.

The Warwick, Rhode Island native stepped to the tee on the final hole tied for the lead at 1-under with Kyle Fraser and blasted a drive that ended up just a few yards off the fairway. With 153 yards left to the pin, Cavanagh selected a pitching wedge and landed her approach 15 feet from the hole.

Needing to two-putt Cavanagh coozed her eagle putt close and then tapped in to finish 2-under and claim a one-shot victory.

"This was a big thing for me," an ecstatic Susie Cavanagh said. "It is my first professional win so it feels good to get one under my belt and this was a great place to do it. It was a fun couple of days out here."

The final round began with Bella Harris (Greenville, SC) holding a two-shot lead over Linda Wang (Plainview, NY) and a three-shot advantage over Cavanagh.

Harris, playing in the final group alongside Wang and Cavanagh, bogeyed No. 3 beginning a 6-over in a three-hole stretch that saw her fade from contention and ultimately finish in a tie for 10th.

As Harris faded Wang made a charge and for a moment held the lead on her own. Even-par through the first four, Wang rammed home a 25 footer for eagle on Madison's fifth to take the lead.

Wang parred the next two holes only to struggle the remainder of the day and finish the tournament 4-over in a tie for sixth.



Susie Cavanagh (left) celebrates her first professional victory. In the final round Kyle Fraser (above), a former standout lacrosse player at Stanford nearly won the title.

As play headed for the back nine, it became clear that on this day the race to the finish would be between Cavanagh and Fraser.

Cavanagh, a member of the ANNIKA Women's All Pro Tour, got off to a slow start with bogeys on Nos. 3 and 4 to drop to 2-over. Unfazed Cavanagh began attacking pins with reckless abandon and as a result carded short birdies on Nos. 6, 8, and 9 to surge up the leaderboard and reach 1-under.

"I made some silly bogeys on 3 and 4 but I was in good positions," explained Cavanagh a member of the UConn women's hockey team for a year before transferring to Oregon State to play golf. "I said, if this continues, this is going to be a long day. So, I just tried to commit to every shot,

go with my gut, and I started firing at pins. I didn't make every putt, but I felt really good over all of them."

At the same time Cavanagh was catching fire so was Fraser (Shady Oaks CC). A former standout lacrosse player for Stanford turned professional golfer, Fraser started the final round 1-over but looked to shoot herself out of the picture with a double bogey on the first hole moving her deficit from four strokes to six in the blink of an eye.

However, Fraser rebounded quickly birdieing the short par 3 second before collecting two birdies on Nos. 4 and 6.

Following her birdie on the sixth, Fraser would par the next 11 holes and head to the 18th tee even-par for the tournament.





After a pushed drive into the fescue, Fraser plowed her second into a greenside bunker. Knowing that she likely had to get up and down to have a chance Fraser, who eagled No. 18 the day before, clipped a gorgeous third shot out of the bunker resulting in a tap in birdie and 1-under finish to the tournament.

As Fraser was completing her round, Cavanagh, now at even par, was playing the par 4 17th hole. Cavanagh elected to play aggressively and came up just short

**Susie Cavanagh (left) strikes her approach into the closing hole. Chelsea Dantonio (right) nearly stole the show late while defending champion Samantha Morrell (below) closed strong.**

of the green with her tee shot. Faced with a difficult chip shot to a slippery green that was running away from her, Cavanagh ran her second shot long leaving herself 25 feet for birdie.

Cavanagh looked the putt over from all angles before settling in for her birdie try. Once the putt was struck the ball only had eyes for the bottom of the cup.

“It was my longest putt of the week,” Cavanagh said. “Before I hit that putt I was pretty frustrated with myself because



I had an easy 40-yard pitch shot that ended up past the pin. On that hole, you can't go long and I did. So, I wanted to do something there, and it was nice to make one. I didn't know that I needed it, to be honest, but in hindsight, it was really nice to make that putt.”

The birdie on No. 17 tied Cavanagh for the lead and set the stage for her final hole heroics.

“I came into this week thinking I had a good shot at winning,” stated Cavanagh. “That is the goal before any tournament but to get it done feels amazing. I've had a couple of chances in the past. Last year I was in the mix in the Connecticut Women's Open, and I just didn't play great (late). But to have a chance to get it done is big. It feels good to get one done.”

**25th Connecticut Women's Open  
presented by Crescent Point Private Wealth  
Madison Country Club - Madison, Conn.  
Par 71 / 6,000 yards Entries: 67  
May 28-29, 2024**

<b>1</b>	<b>Susie Cavanagh, Warwick, RI</b>	<b>71-69-140</b>
2	Kyle Fraser, Shady Oaks CC	72-69-141
3	Chelsea Dantonio, East Aurora, NY	73-70-143
4	Samantha Morrell, Fenway GC	73-71-144
5	Margot Rouquette, Great River GC	73-72-145
T6	Meaghan Francella, Philadelphia, PA	72-74-146
T6	Loretta Giovannettone, Jupiter, FL	72-74-146
T6	Linda Wang, Plainview, NY	70-76-146
T9	Karla Vazquez (a), College Park, MD	76-71-147
T9	Kathleen Sumner, Frederick, MD	74-73-147



# ENDING WITH AN EXCLAMATION POINT

With her amateur career winding down Maisie Filler returned to her roots. One of the top amateurs in the world Filler lived in Bloomfield until she was 16 years old when she moved to Palm Beach Gardens, Florida to continue pursuing her golf career.

In Florida, her golf continued to flourish and out of high school she committed to the University of Florida. At Florida Filler thrived earning All-SEC and All-American honors, and during her senior year she won three individual titles. Filler also competed in two Augusta Women's National Amateurs and in 2024 she tied for eighth.

However, through it all the Fillers kept their house in Bloomfield and maintained their membership at Hartford Golf Club. So when the opportunity following graduation in the spring of 2024 arose to compete in the 59th Connecticut Women's Amateur Filler couldn't pass up the chance.

In her return to CSGA play, Filler didn't disappoint as she captured the title in dominant fashion. That victory along with her Round of 16 run at the U.S. Women's Amateur and appearance in the U.S. Women's Open propelled Filler to her first career Liz Janangelo Caron Women's Player of the Year award.

The award will serve as the exclamation point to her stellar amateur career and as one of the many springboards into her next chapter. Professional golf.

"I am looking forward to the challenge," Filler said. "I know it will be difficult but I am excited to give it my all. It will be cool, and I'll learn a lot."



# THE HIGHS AND LOWS



Eventual champion Austin Perkins celebrates an eagle from the 10th fairway at Torrington Country Club during his Round of 32 match at the 122nd Connecticut Amateur.



Jim Abbott (above) can't believe his putt missed at the 18th Senior Match Play Championship. Connor Goode (above right) reacts to a late missed putt in his Round of 32 Connecticut Amateur match. Meanwhile at the 84th Connecticut Four-Ball Championship Craig Platt (opposite below) reacts to a chip-in birdie while Maisie Filler (below) celebrates her win at the 59th Connecticut Women's Amateur with friends and family.





In the final round of the 21st Russell C. Palmer Cup Cody Paladino (above left) punctuates a made birdie putt. Kevin Hedstrom (above right) can't believe his putt at the Two Man Championship slid by. In a playoff at the 39th Connecticut Public Links Ashton Lewis (below left) is stunned when his birdie try on the first extra hole didn't drop. Late on the final day of the Russell C. Palmer Cup Thomas McCarthy (below right) reacts to a missed opportunity.



CSGA



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2024 JUNIOR COMPETITION

# JUNIORS

The stars shined bright throughout the 2024 junior season.



# A REMARKABLE BACK NINE BOOSTS LUKE STENNETT

Luke Stennett had a back nine for the ages at **Watertown Golf Club**.

**T**he championship match of the 83rd Connecticut Junior Amateur between Luke Stennett and North Chery was a tale of two nines.

The opening nine holes at Watertown Golf Club belonged to North Chery (Great River GC) however it will be the back nine tour de force put on by Luke Stennett (Tallwood CC) that will long be remembered.

Through nine holes it looked as if the day would belong to Chery. The Hamden Hall senior came out of the gates clicking on all cylinders and thanks to birdies on Nos. 1, 3, and 8 plus a win with a par on No. 9 he was able to build what appeared to be an insurmountable 4-up advantage.

“I told myself I just have to make something special happen.”

– Luke Stennett

On the back Chery continued to play stellar golf, but on this day few if any players could have matched the nine-hole performance that Stennett turned in.

After bogeying the par-3 ninth to fall 4-down Stennett gave himself a pep talk as he waited to tee off on the par-4 10th.

“I told myself I just have to make something special happen,” Luke Stennett said. What happened next was special indeed.

Needing to cut into the deficit quickly Stennett stuffed his approach shot into No. 10 setting up his first birdie of the day. A second birdie followed on the par-4 11th and in a blink the deficit had been cut in half.

Momentum on his side for the first time Stennett kept applying the pressure. Both players birdied the par-4 12th, Stennett’s the result of a spectacular 4-wood tee shot that found the green and came to rest pin high 20 feet from the cup. Matching pars on the next hole sent play to the par-3 14th with Chery holding on to his 2-up lead.

Still with honors Stennett hit the green with his tee shot but left himself a lengthy look at birdie. Chery sprayed his tee shot well right of the green and when he failed to get up and down Stennett’s birdie was conceded and he was now just 1-down.

After a pair of pars on No. 15 both players missed the fairway off the tee on 16 with Stennett going right and Chery left.

With Chery slightly away and needing to navigate over and around some trees he hit what on most days would have been the shot of the day as he found the green leaving himself 30 feet for eagle.

From the opposite side rough, Stennett responded. With 190 yards to the pin and a flyer lie, Stennett chose nine iron, took a mighty lash and then watched along with everyone else as the ball landed with feathery softness coming to rest three feet from the hole.

Chery would two-putt for his fifth birdie of the match but it wouldn’t be enough as Stennett cashed in on his remarkable second shot brushing in the eagle putt that pulled him even in the match for the first time since the opening tee box.



**Zachary Munno (left) and Luke Kowalchik (right) put together impressive performances to reach the semifinals.**





## 83rd CONNECTICUT JUNIOR AMATEUR

Once tied Stennett would not be stopped. A par won the par-4 17th hole giving Stennett his first lead of the day and then on the closing par-4 he ended his 7-under 28 back nine with an exclamation point.

Stennett did find some minor trouble off the tee but on this day nothing could faze the 18 year-old playing in his final Connecticut Junior Amateur.

“I had a little red tree in my way but thankfully I hit my wedges high,” Stennett said. “So I wasn’t thinking about the tree at all. I just told myself to get the ball on the green and set up a two-putt.”

Stennett did a little better than just finding the green landing his ball on the front edge and watching it roll out to four feet. Moments later Stennett converted his fifth birdie of the back nine to cap a spectacular 2-up victory.

“Winning the Connecticut Junior Amateur in my last try means everything,” said Stennett who had previously advanced as far as the semifinals. “I’ve been looking forward to this tournament so much because it was my last Connecticut Junior Amateur. And don’t get me wrong, in the back of my mind every day, I kept saying this could be my last time playing in this amaz-

ing event. I was lucky enough to continue playing until the very end.”

Stennett also saved his best for last. His back nine 7-under 28 was the best nine-hole score he had ever recorded.

“I’ve shot two or three 29s,” Stennett said. “But shooting a 28 in these circumstances is something that I didn’t even think I could do. It gives me a great amount of confidence for the rest of the summer and for when I begin my college career at the University of Rhode Island in the fall of 2024.”



Runner-up North Chery (opposite) played impressive golf all week long but Luke Stennett (above) was too much down the stretch. Harrison Browne (left) and Will Lord (right) both reached the quarterfinals.



**83rd Connecticut Junior Amateur**  
**Watertown Golf Club - Watertown, Conn.**  
**Par 71/6,400 yards Entries: 108**  
**July 8-11, 2024**

**Luke Stennett (Tallwood CC) path to the William A. Salvatore Trophy**  
 Stroke Play Qualifier: 70 (-1), seeded 7th  
 Round of 32: Defeated #26 Wyatt Lupo (Greenwich CC), 5&4  
 Round of 16: Defeated #10 Will Gregware (Farmington Woods GC), 2&1  
 Quarterfinals: Defeated #31 Will Lord, (Suffield CC), 2 up  
 Semifinals: Defeated #6 Zachary Munno (The Stanwich Club), 1 up  
 Finals: Defeated #8 North Chery (Great River GC), 2 up



3rd Connecticut Girls' Junior

# YVETTE O'BRIEN GOES WIRE-TO-WIRE

Yvette O'Brien raced out to a big lead and then held on at **Watertown Golf Club.**

It turned into a grind but in the end, Yvette O'Brien (Greenwich CC) held on to win the 3rd Connecticut Girls' Junior Amateur hosted by Watertown Golf Club.

O'Brien began the final round at 4-under, led by as many as five shots and still led by four with three holes remaining. But one hole nearly flipped the result.

Sitting at level par and four shots ahead of Juyeon Paek (YOC Connecticut) as the final group reached the par-5 16th it looked as if despite some struggles O'Brien was going to cruise to the title. Paek had other ideas.

Both players hit good drives and had green light yardages to attack the pin. Slightly away Paek, playing from 183 yards out, went pin-seeking with her second shot and hit a remarkable shot that rolled to within five feet of the flagstick.

Looking to respond O'Brien found the green but was facing a tricky 40-footer from well above the hole. Showing respect for the speed of green O'Brien's eagle putt came up short, her birdie try rolled well by, and when her par putt burned the edge and she tapped in for bogey the door that had been slammed shut on the rest of the field since an opening 6-under 65 had suddenly been left ajar.

With an opportunity to kick open the door, Paek did just that rolling in her five-foot eagle try to in a blink pull within one shot.

Now for the first time all week, the outcome seemed to be in doubt. However, O'Brien had all the answers. Despite a pulled drive into the left rough on the par-4 17th, she was able to secure a par, and then on the closing par-4 18th she bombed her drive and then flipped a



Juyeon Paek (above) finished in second place at Watertown Golf Club.

"I was just trying to take it one shot at a time. I had a rough front nine, but I just tried to keep my head on straight."

- Yvette O'Brien

wedge to 15 feet. After Paek missed a long birdie try all O'Brien needed to do was two-putt to secure her second Connecticut Girls' Junior Amateur title and she did just that.

After her round, O'Brien talked about how she regained her focus after her lead was trimmed to one shot. "I just knew I had to get the job done. Obviously, it's golf, so you're going to have good holes and bad holes, I've been down before, and I knew I just had to keep looking forward to the next shot and not get too down on myself, even when it was tough."

In the end, O'Brien shot rounds of 65-73-76 to finish 1-over and one shot better than Paek (+2). Her first round 6-under 65 was highlighted by a hole-in-one on the par-3 15th.

"I was just trying to take it one shot at a time," O'Brien, a TCU commit said. "I had a rough front nine, but I just tried to keep my head on straight. The wind did pick up later in the day and I had a little more trouble, but ultimately I got the win, so it feels great."

O'Brien did get off to a shaky start but birdies on Nos. 5 and 12 helped her right the ship and maintain her advantage. Another key to her success was keeping big numbers off her scorecard and for the week O'Brien never recorded worse than bogey.

O'Brien's ability to limit the big numbers on her scorecard speaks to the growth of her game in the two years since she first won the Connecticut Girls' Junior Amateur in 2022. "The first year I played," O'Brien said. "It was at two different courses, but I shot 77-76 and I remember someone asked me, 'how do you win with a 77-76?' And I was like, I don't know. I didn't have an answer, but my score this year just shows you the progress that I've made throughout the years and how much I've been practicing, just trying my best to get better, and giving it 110%. It feels great to see progress."



## STENNETT, GUO WINNERS AT 55TH BORCK JUNIOR

Luke Stennett continued to make history while for Junxi Guo it was a breakthrough victory.

**L**uke Stennett and Junxi Guo earned titles on the final day of the 55th Borck Junior hosted by Brooklawn Country Club.

In the Boys' Division Luke Stennett earned a historic victory becoming the first player to win the Borck Junior and the Connecticut Junior Amateur in the same year. Stennett also joined David Renzulli as the only player to win both titles. Renzulli, the former Country Club of Fairfield head professional, won the Borck Junior title in 1983 and 1986 to go along with his 1984 Connecticut Junior Amateur victory.

Stennett (Tallwood CC) was locked in all week long earning co-medalist honors on day one and then once match play began he never made it past the 16th hole.

"I had the same game plan all week," Luke Stennett said. "Just to have fun and play the best I can."

For Stennett that mindset certainly worked out.

The University of Rhode Island freshman began the final day of the Borck Junior with an impressive 4&2 semifinal win over Brennan Meyers (Shuttle Meadow CC). Then in the championship match, Stennett took on Rhett dePont (Woodway CC), a 19-hole winner in the semis over Thomas Bonomo (The Stanwich Club), and was in control from the jump.

Just under two weeks after shooting a back nine 28 to win the Connecticut Junior Amateur, Stennett rolled to an 8&7 triumph thanks in large part to five birdies in his first 11 holes. Stennett, who had a 5-up advantage after five holes, didn't drop a hole in the title match.

However, it was his birdie on the par-4 third that officially put Stennett in the



Junxi Guo (left) and Luke Stennett (above) conquered the field at Brooklawn Country Club.

driver's seat. After fanning his drive out to the right, Stennett had a 120-yard sand wedge left into the green. The 2023 New England Junior Amateur champion promptly stuffed his approach shot to four feet setting up a birdie that gave him a 3-up advantage through three holes.

"After that, I thought today is my day and I started attacking pins and it went pretty well," Stennett said.

"My coach always tells me to W-I-N but win stands for what's important now so I focused on hitting fairways, greens, and two-putting. That mindset kept me focused."

- Junxi Guo

In the Girls' Division Junxi Guo (EClub of Connecticut) handled Paige McKenna (Tashua Knolls GC) 4&2.

"The victory means a lot because it is my first win since moving to Connecticut," Junxi Guo said. "This tournament will give me more confidence for the rest of my season."

Guo, a 2-up semifinal winner over Kenna Roman (Shuttle Meadow CC), won two of the first three holes in the championship match to set the early pace.

Despite the quick start for Guo the match remained close and McKenna, who bested top-seed Caroline McShea (EClub of Connecticut) 2&1 in the semifinals, was just 1-down after 13 holes.

With the match still up for grabs Nos. 12 and 13 were tied before Guo stepped on the accelerator winning the next three holes to close out the match. The highlight of Guo's sprint to the finish was a birdie on the par-4 14th.

"My coach always tells me to W-I-N but win stands for what's important now so I focused on hitting fairways, greens, and two-putting. That mindset kept me focused," explained Guo.

# SENIORS

They came down to the wire! The 2024 senior schedule will be remembered for its close finishes!

# HERMANSOON PREVAILS

A late flurry of birdies helped lift Connecticut Golf Hall of Famer Bill Hermanson at Longshore Golf Course.

**W**ith an even-par 69 at the 28th Super Senior Championship Bill Hermanson earned a one-shot victory over Mark Vasington (+1).

“Any time you are lucky enough to win it is fun,” said Hermanson who captured his first Super Senior Championship in just his third attempt. “That is what we all play for. Winning never gets old.”

Beginning his day on the par-4 fifth hole at Longshore Golf Course, Hermanson (Black Hall Club) got off to a slow start, and after the first 11 holes of his round, he was 3-over. However, Hermanson began to turn his day around on the 388-yard par-4 16th.

With 173 yards into the wind remaining for his second shot Hermanson selected 6 iron and flushed his approach shot stuffing it to two feet. Moments later Hermanson brushed in the short birdie try and officially flipped the momentum.

“I was hitting the ball well and I kept hitting it close and giving myself opportunities,” Hermanson said.

Those opportunities resulted in additional birdies from inside of eight feet on the par-4 first and par-3 second moving Hermanson back to even-par. Once back to level par Hermanson eased his way into the clubhouse with pars on the final two holes to seal yet another CSGA victory.



Mark Vasington (above) birdied three times on his way to a second place finish at Longshore Golf Course.



28th Super Senior Championship Longshore Golf Course Westport, Conn. August 26, 2024			
Par 69/ 5,900 yards - Entries: 69			
1	Bill Hermanson, Black Hall Club	69	T6 Frank Geiger, H. Smith Richardson GC 73
2	Mark Vasington, Wampanoag CC	70	T6 Tim Dailey, H. Smith Richardson GC 73
3	John Herbert, Rockledge GC	71	T6 Rick Lawrence, Ridgewood CC 73
T4	Arthur Haddad, Richter Park GC	72	T10 Jonathan Groveman, Aspetuck Valley CC 74
T4	Bruce Krackowsky, Rockledge GC	72	T10 Michael Hooper, Brooklawn CC 74
T6	Richard Stevens, Wallingford CC	73	T10 Pat Deluca, Mill River CC 74

2024 SUPER SENIOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR: BILL HERMANSON

# HERMANSON IS STILL SUPER

Call it a three-peat! For the third time in three years, Bill Hermanson has earned Super Senior Player of the Year honors.

“It’s always nice,” said the Connecticut Golf Hall of Famer, who is still the only player ever to win the award. “It’s unexpected. You never expect it coming into the season. Winning the award means you played pretty decent golf for a good part of the year.”

A longtime sales representative for Ahead, Inc. Hermanson often found himself in the winner’s circle. His 2024 campaign which included six Super Senior Division One Day titles was highlighted by his first career victory at the Super Senior Championship.

“I started out slow,” Hermanson said of his Super Senior Championship victory. “I made a few bonehead mistakes but I was able to bounce back from that and I birdied three of the last five holes to finish it off after kind of a sluggish start.”

In 2024 Hermanson also continued to add to his remarkable CSGA team record making his 39th appearance in the Julius Boros Challenge Cup.

“I feel so lucky to still be able to compete. I’m just fortunate,” said Hermanson a proud grandfather of a two-year-old girl. “The older you get, the more you appreciate it.”

Hermanson might be appreciating it more but one thing is for certain he has been winning Connecticut State Golf Association events for decades and there is no end in sight.





79TH SENIOR AMATEUR

## MICHAEL HOOPER RALLIES AT SENIOR AMATEUR

Four shots back to begin the day Michael Hooper overcame a slow start in the final round to **win his first CSGA major title.**

**M**ichael Hooper began the final round of the 79th Connecticut Senior Amateur 5-over par and four shots off the pace. By the time he walked off the opening par-4 at the Country Club of New Canaan, he had recorded a double-bogey and it looked as if he would be an afterthought. Two holes later when Hooper dropped another shot to fall to 8-over it seemed like the book had been closed on his chances. The only problem was nobody told Michael Hooper.

On a day when nobody in the field came close to breaking par Hooper (Brooklawn CC) began to see red as he made the turn.

In search of his first birdie of the day, Hooper found it on the long par-3 10th, and then with momentum on his side, he converted a second straight birdie on the 525-yard par-5 11th.

Meanwhile, as Hooper began to surge the names at the top of the leaderboard began to swirl. The day began with 2017 champion Patrick McGuiness (Keney Park GC) in the lead but after an early falter, both Eric Ashworth (Orange Hills CC) and CSGA Executive Director Mike Moraghan (CC of Waterbury) spent time leading the way.

However, as play headed down the stretch, it was Hooper who would continue to battle his way up the leaderboard while the rest of the field faded.

Following a dropped shot on No. 12, Hooper righted the ship with pars on the next two holes before beginning to take control of the tournament with birdies on Nos 15 and 16.



**For the second straight year Patrick McGuiness (above) finished tied for second.**

Playing the 353-yard par-4 15th Hooper stuffed his approach shot to six feet and then converted the birdie putt. On the next hole, the long par-5 16th, Hooper flagged his third shot setting up another six-footer for birdie. Once the putt dropped Hooper had returned to 5-over and had moved to the top of the leaderboard.

With two holes remaining and looking to hang on, Hooper had another good look for birdie on No. 17 before settling for par. Needing one more par on the last Hooper caught a break.

Looking to hit the green with his approach shot on the par-4 18th to set up a two-putt Hooper's second shot found the putting surface but almost immediately began to roll back down the slope. Hooper's ball seemed destined to roll off the green but somehow it managed to settle in

a sprinkler head and when he got relief he was able to two-putt and secure the one-shot victory.

"I've had a couple of close calls in this event so it means a lot," said Michael Hooper who has finished in the top five twice since 2020. "I've been knocking at the door, but this is a great field and I'm just very proud and fortunate to be up on top."

When all was said and done Hooper finished 5-over with rounds of 75-70. His final round even-par 70 was the round of the tournament.

McGuiness and Ashworth shared second place at 6-over while in a tie for fourth at 9-over it was Moraghan and Dave Olender (Ellington Ridge CC).

# DAVID BAKER DIGS DEEP

Playing a two-time Connecticut Amateur winner on his home course David Baker had **all the answers in the title match.**

**O**n a hot and steamy morning at Indian Hill Country Club David Baker only trailed briefly on his way to a 1-up victory at the 18th Senior Match Play Championship. The victory was Baker's first CSGA major title.

"It is just sinking in, to be honest with you," said David Baker shortly after his victory. "I'm super excited about this win. It just hasn't hit me yet, but I feel amazing."

Facing Indian Hill CC member and top-seed Brian Hedstrom, Baker only trailed for one hole after Hedstrom won the par-3 11th with a par to take a 1-up lead. However, it was Baker, who had all the answers down the stretch.

Baker (Wallingford CC) quickly returned the match to even with a par to win No. 12 and then began to take full control with a birdie to win the 432-yard par-4 13th.

After finding the fairway off the tee Baker had 250 yards left for his second shot. With a 3 wood in hand, Baker knocked his approach to 20 feet. Meanwhile, Hedstrom was struggling on the hole. His second shot went long and his third, a chip shot, from beyond the green came up short. Once his long par putt missed Baker only needed a two-putt to win the hole.

Baker would only need one and when the birdie try dropped into the bottom of the cup in one fell swoop he unleashed a fist pump and simultaneously took control of the match.

A second consecutive birdie followed on the par-5 13th and with that, Baker held a 2-up lead with four holes to play.

Despite the cushion, there would still be some tenuous moments. On the short par-4 15th Hedstrom had one of his best looks



**Two-time Connecticut Amateur winner Brian Hedstrom (above) reached the finals on his home course but in the end it was David Baker (right) who captured his first CSGA major title.**

of the day for birdie. But as was the theme of the day for Hedstrom the birdie try from 12 feet slid by. When the putt missed Baker had a chance from 10 feet to save par and retain his 2-up lead.

With help from his caddie and fellow Wallingford CC member Jamie Sheltman who Baker credited for his success in the finals, Baker had the read he wanted and calmly rolled in the putt.

"On No. 15 that's when I was like, okay, I can win this," Baker said.

Still despite the mounting odds Hedstrom wouldn't go down without a fight. On the 353 uphill par-4 16th, he stuffed his second shot to five feet setting up his lone birdie of the match. The birdie brought Hedstrom to within 1-down with two holes remaining.

Both players bogeyed the 17th sending play to the closing par-5 where both players missed the fairway left off the tee.

Baker was in a better spot in the rough and hit his second shot to a comfortable number in the fairway. For Hedstrom, it was a different story. His tee shot got caught up in the fescue above the left-side fairway bunker and he was forced to punch out. With a long approach into the green Hedstrom did find the putting surface with his third shot but he faced a 45-foot sidwinding putt for birdie.

Now seemingly in control of his own fate Baker, playing in his first CSGA event in several years, selected a 9 iron from 125 yards out and nearly holed his third shot into the front left pin location setting up a 10-foot look for birdie.

In the end, Baker would only need to two putt. Once Hedstrom's improbable birdie bid didn't fall Baker did exactly that.

The two-putt on the last was a culmination of the game plan that Baker entered the day focused on, "fairways and greens. And don't make a mistake. That's what I did."







As the 31-seed David Marshall (above left) made an impressive run to the semifinals where he fell to eventual champion David Baker (top). Jeff Wise (bottom left) gave Brian Hedstrom everything he could handle before falling in the semifinals. Meanwhile Glen Boggini (above) in his title defense made a strong run before falling in the quarterfinals.

**18th Senior Match Play Championship**  
**Indian Hill Country Club - Newington, Conn.**  
**Par 72 / 6,350 yards Entries: 141**  
**June 17-20, 2024**

**David Baker (Wallingford CC) path to Victory**

Stroke Play Qualifier: 75 (+3), seeded 19th  
Round of 32: Defeated #14 Derek Waddington (EClub of Connecticut), 2&1  
Round of 16: Defeated #3 Ken Parisi (Indian Hill CC), 4&3  
Quarterfinals: Defeated #6 Bob Murphy (Brownson CC), 1 up  
Semifinals: Defeated #31 David Marshall (Quinnatisset CC), 5&4  
Finals: Defeated #1 Brian Hedstrom (Indian Hill CC), 1 up



# DAVE JONES IS THE MAIN MAN

Year after year Dave Jones lets his play do the talking and 2024 was no different. The 62 year-old teed it up in 14 CSGA events in 2024 and earned a remarkable 13 top-10 finishes including four wins, two runner-up finishes, and four third-place showings. When the math was complete it all added up to Jones' third Dick Siderowf Senior Player of the Year award.

This year Jones earned four One Day titles, tied for third in the Siderowf Division at the Tournament of Champions, and finished T9 at the Connecticut Public Links while also qualifying for both the Julius Boros Challenge Cup and Tri-State teams. Nationally, Jones qualified for his sixth USGA championship, the 70th U.S. Senior Amateur.

“The U.S. Senior Amateur at The Honors Course in Chattanooga was perhaps the most special (of the six I have competed in),” expressed Jones. “The course was just fantastic, the USGA experience is second to none as far as treatment towards the players.”

Away from the golf course, Jones enjoys boating, working on his home, skiing, and spending time with his family and friends. That time away from the course helps Jones, a member at Mohegan Sun Golf Club, reach his full potential on the course.

“Winning the Player of the Year award for the third time is very special simply because it is so hard to win at golf,” said Jones who also won the award in 2021 and 2022. “To win you have to be really consistent from the first event to the last event because of the quality and depth of the talented CSGA senior players.”

# THE CAMARADERIE WAS STRONG IN PARTNER PLAY

Low scores and tight finishes highlighted partner action in 2024.





2024 PARTNERS

## WINNING WITH FAMILY

Birdies early and often lifted the **Ashworths and the Halperts.**

**F**ollowing a par on the opening hole of the 5th Parent Child Championship hosted by The Club at River Oaks Eric and EJ Ashworth (Orange Hills CC) jump started their day on the par-5 second hole converting an eagle that quickly moved them to 2-under.

Despite a few setbacks, the Ashworths (below) remained resilient. In addition to their early eagle, they added birdies on Nos. 12 and 13 and on two challenging par-3s in Nos. 15 and 17 to finish with a 3-under 69.

Their victory was a culmination of years of effort and perseverance in the tournament. EJ reflected on their journey saying, “We finished in second place two or three years ago and we were in contention last year. And then this year we finally pulled it off.”

At the 88th Father & Son Championship contested at Mill River Country Club Michael and Alex Halpert (Highfield Club) fired an impressive 5-under 66 to capture the title.

The Halperts (left) got their day off to a strong start as they birdied the first two holes and then added additional birdies on Nos. 5, 9, 10, & 14, with only one bogey on the par-4 11th.

For Mike, winning with his son Alex was a memorable experience. “Especially a CSGA event, it’s awesome,” Mike said. His son Alex added, “It feels good to win with my dad, I mean winning anything is pretty good.”



2024 PARTNERS

# PICK EACH OTHER UP

Team work carried the day at the **Mixed Team and Senior Four-Ball.**

**W**ith a par on the first extra hole Mark Vasington (Wampanoag CC) and Julie Paolino (Ellington Ridge CC) captured the 87th Mixed Team Championship hosted by Clinton Country Club.

“Mark and I lost a good friend early this winter, and he taught me how to play golf,” Julie Paolino said. “He was kind of like the main man, and he brought Mark and me together. He was very instrumental in that. And so we decided to pair up and play in this event together (for the first time) and honor him.”

After finishing regulation tied at 1-over 73 with Dean Godek (Cedar Knob GC) and Alia Godek (Agawam Municipal GC) play headed to extra holes. Both teams found the green with their second shots on the par-4 first hole, but it was a successful two-putt by Vasington and Paolino (right) who have known each other for over 30 years that ruled the day.

On a chilly, blustery day at Fairview Farm Golf Course the tandem of Rick Malafronte (New Haven CC) and Brian Hedstrom (Indian Hill CC) fired an 8-under 64 to capture the 43rd Connecticut Senior Four-Ball Championship.

Playing in weather more reminiscent of mid-October than mid-August Malafronte and Hedstrom (below) played a flawless round of golf that was highlighted by eight birdies.

“Rick Malafronte was working for us today,” Hedstrom, the 2024 Senior Match Play Championship runner-up said of his teammate. “He played great. It was my first time playing the course and I started a little shaky, but I just rode him for a little bit until I got my bearings. And then I tried to help out when I could. But he played amazing today. Hats off to Rick.”

The duo recorded birdies on Nos. 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 15, and 18. Following the round Malafronte said, “We have played together a few times and we are very comfortable together. (Today) was great.”





## EARLY BIRDIES ARE STORY

The Wallingford Country Club duo was locked in throughout the day at **Black Hall Club**.

**T**he duo of Christopher Sica and Joseph Serrantino (Wallingford CC) teamed to capture the 2024 Two Man Championship at Black Hall Club.

“We played together in the Two Man for the first time in 2019, and we played well, and we both came away thinking we’d love to win it and we thought we could,” explained Christopher Sica (above right). “We both have very busy work schedules, so it’s hard to find time to play sometimes but we are extremely excited to win this championship.”

The duo took the lead late in the morning four-ball and never looked back finishing 9-under and the winners by two shots.

Beginning their opening round on the par-4 third hole Sica and Serrantino got off to a strong start playing the first 14 holes in 5-under-par. However, it was their play over the last five holes of the first round that saw them surge up the leaderboard.

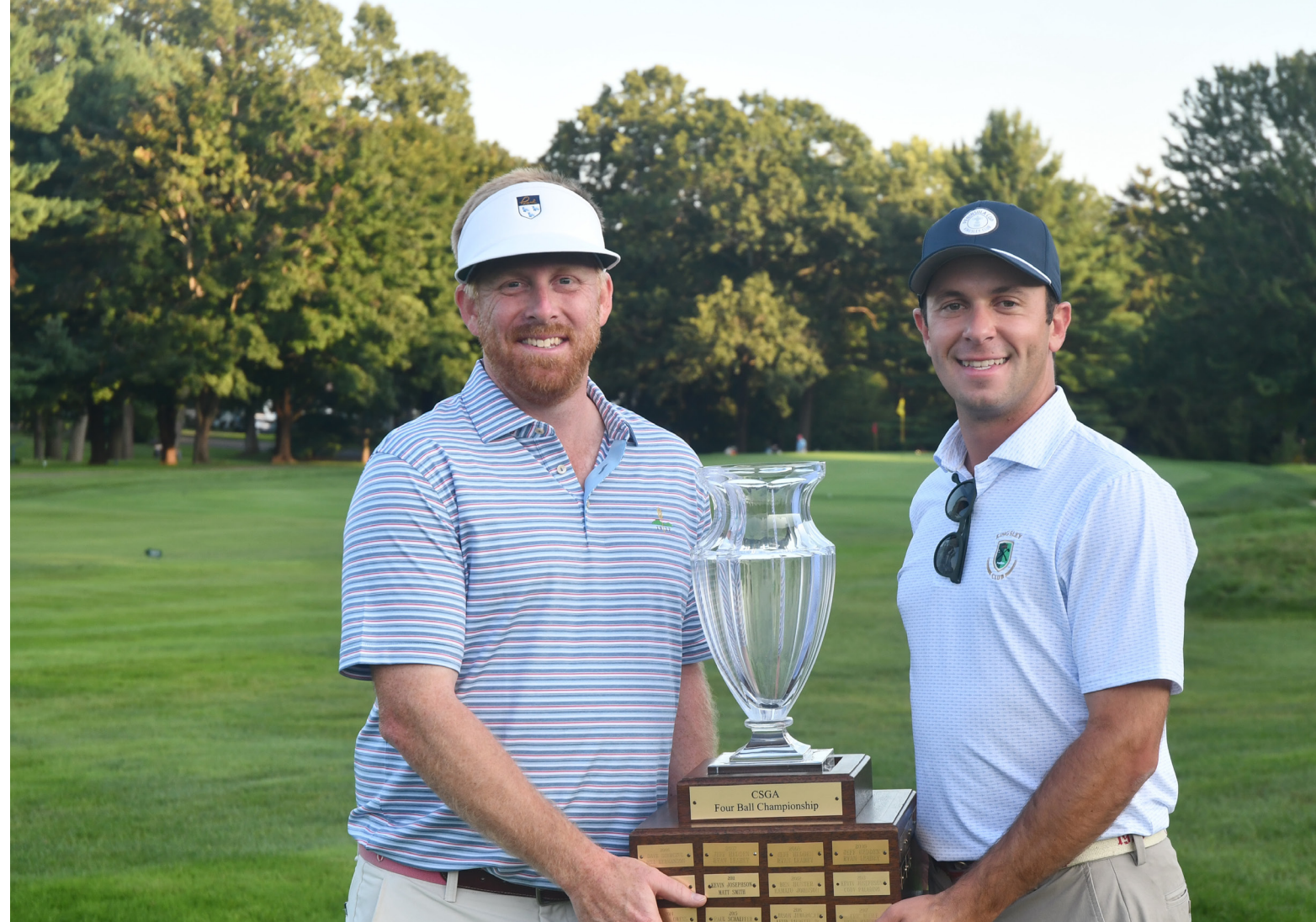
Their run began with a 20-foot birdie putt by Serrantino (above left) on the par-3 16th and another from the same distance on the par-4 18th as both players birdied twice in the five-hole stretch to push their opening round tally to 9-under 62.

“I think both of us being in the hole during the four-ball round really helped,” said Joseph Serrantino. “Then during those last five holes, we thought, let’s just keep going low.”

That late flurry of birdies gave Sica and Serrantino a one-shot lead heading into the afternoon foursomes.

During the second round Sica and Serrantino held serve putting together an even-par 71 that included two birdies and two bogeys. Their afternoon birdies dropped on Nos. 9 and 12 but the moment of the round came on the par-4 15th when Sica drilled a 20-footer to save par.

“The par putt on No. 15 crept in and basically took the left door and fell inside,” Sica said. “That par save was huge and that kind of kept us in it.”



## POST A SCORE AND HOLD ON

Several teams had a chance to win the 84th Four-Ball Championship but it was **Mike Kennedy and Rick Dowling who prevailed**.

**O**n a spectacular late August day Rick Dowling (above right) and Mike Kennedy (above left) combined to fire an 8-under 63 and win the 84th Four-Ball Championship presented by Middlesex Health by one shot over four other teams.

Playing at Wallingford Country Club and competing together for the first time in a CSGA event the duo was even-par through the first four holes before beginning their move with a birdie on the 544-yard par-5 fifth. Once in the red Dowling (Golf Performance Center) and Kennedy (Tashua Knolls GC) were off to the races.

Dowling kept the momentum going with a long birdie putt on the par-3 sixth and then

Kennedy pushed their tally to 3-under with a birdie on the par-4 ninth hole.

“Going 3-under through nine holes was huge,” Kennedy said. “Everyone knows you can tear up the back nine so if you can get two, three, or four under on the front you know you got a chance.”

Birdies on Nos. 10 and 11 moved the tandem to 5-under. However, the moment of the day came courtesy of Kennedy when he converted an eagle on the par-5 13th moving the duo to 7-under.

Following birdies on Nos. 15 and 17 Dowling and Kennedy would get as low as 9-under however they would give a shot back

with a bogey on the difficult closing par-4 18th to post 8-under 63.

Among the first groups on the course Dowling and Kennedy had to wait nearly six hours to see if their score would stand up. A number of teams had a chance to tie but nobody on the final hole could produce the birdie or in some cases the par needed to force a playoff.

“It is sweet to win,” said Dowling who was playing in his first career Four-Ball Championship. “It’s a one round shootout so you never know if you’re going to make the putts or not. We both played really well and it feels really good to win.”

# BAD BACK?

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2024 CONNECTICUT TEAM COMPETITION

## CSGA CAPTURES SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE JULIUS BOROS CHALLENGE CUP

Shuttle Meadow Country Club hosted the Julius Boros Challenge Cup for the **first time in event history.**



The CSGA team led by captain Roger Everin put together a complete team performance at the Julius Boros Challenge Cup.

For the seventh straight year the Connecticut State Golf Association defeated the Connecticut Section PGA to capture the Julius Boros Challenge Cup.

Playing the event for the first time in its 53-year history at Shuttle Meadow Country Club, the CSGA had success across the board earning a 51.5-20.5 victory to extend their record long winning streak.

"I'm so proud of each of the members of our team," said eighth-year team captain Roger Everin. "There were a lot of unknowns this year, a new venue, and only eight returning players from last year. Before the matches as a team, we talked about how you can't win by yourself, but only as a team. And that's what they did."

On a cloudy and at times breezy yet warm day all eight CSGA teams earned at least three points with the tandem of Ben Conroy and Kyle Bilodeau leading the way earning the full complement of nine points.

The CSGA also received strong performances from Glen Boggini and Bob Murphy, Jr. (8.5 points), Rick Hayes and Mike Kennedy (7.5 points), Rick Dowling and Anthony Guerrero (7.5 points), Brad Tilly and Shane Bacon (7 points).

"We have a lot of experienced and talented players who are very comfortable in these kinds of events," said Everin. "They support each other and believe in themselves and each other."

The Connecticut Section PGA, which still holds a commanding 34-19 overall lead in the series, was led by the team of CJ Konkowski and Brad Lusenhop who earned six points while Jan Wivestad and Jason Gobleck tallied five points

Scoring for the CSGA was rounded out by Peter Tomlinson and Adam Friedman (5 points), Dave Jones and Bill Hermanson playing in his 39th Julius Boros Challenge Cup (4 points), Ben Day and Jamie Shelton (3 points).

# CONNECTICUT COMPETES IN MASSACHUSETTS

Team Connecticut turned in a number of impressive performances at the **2024 New England Junior Amateur.**



**The 2024 Connecticut New England Junior Amateur team.**

**A**fter two days that felt more like fall than late summer at the New England Junior Amateur, Team Connecticut turned in an impressive showing.

In the Boys' Division Connecticut finished the 36-hole weather-shortened tournament 1-under and just one shot behind overall team champion Massachusetts (-2).

Leading the way for Connecticut at GreatHorse was defending champion Luke Stennett. The 2024 Connecticut Junior Amateur and Borck Junior winner fired rounds of 67-71 to finish 6-under and in third place one shot out of a playoff.

Stennett came out of the gates blazing on day one recording five birdies and an eagle. He cooled off a bit on day two but his fine play allowed Stennett to close out his junior career in style.

The remainder of the Connecticut lineup was rounded out by Maryland commit Caden Piselli (T4, -2), North Chery (T7, +1), Robby Rosati (T11, +3), Zach Mun-

no (17th, +5), Maryland freshman Will Gregware (T19, +7), and Florida commit Austin Perkins (T26, +12).

"The New England Junior provided young players a valuable chance to compete as a team before many were heading off to college," said the CSGA's Bob Sparks. "Team Connecticut and Team Massachusetts played exceptionally well in a very close match at a top-notch facility. The event was a great showcase of the many incredibly talented golfers from New England."

Led by Cindy Cao (9th, +18) Connecticut (+43) took fourth place in the Girls' Division. Rounding out the lineup were Shawna Aurora (11th, +28), and CC Kaplan (13th, +34).

Cao, who finished eighth at the Connecticut Girls' Junior and T9 at the Connecticut Women's Amateur, played steady golf across two days. Her best stretch came during round one when she played Nos. 6-14 in level par while recording two birdies.

"The team showcased exceptional teamwork and dedication during the two days at GreatHorse," Michaela McNamara of the CSGA said. "Cindy, CC, and Shawna displayed incredible support for one another celebrating each other's successes and offering encouragement through every swing and putt. Together, they not only represented Connecticut with pride, but modeled excellence, sportsmanship, and a team first attitude."

# CONNECTICUT RALLY FALLS SHORT AT 90TH TRI-STATES

Team Connecticut nearly pulled off an improbable final day rally at **Worcester Country Club.**



**The 2024 Connecticut Tri-State team.**

**A**fter two bitterly cold and windy days at Worcester Country Club Team Connecticut came up just short in its bid to rally on the final day of the 90th Tri-State Matches.

On day one Massachusetts tallied 22.5 points between the four-ball and foursome sessions to take a comfortable lead over both Rhode Island (13 points) and Connecticut (12.5 points). However, with 96 points up for grabs in the final day singles the end result was still in doubt.

Playing in threesomes and competing in simultaneous Nassau matches with one point available for winning each the front nine, back nine, and overall match Team Connecticut put together a vicious rally.

After beginning the day 10 points behind, Connecticut, in search of its second consecutive Tri-State victory, came roaring out of the gates winning 10 of 15 matches against Massachusetts to get as close as four points.

In fact, Connecticut (75 points) outscored Massachusetts 29-19 and Rhode Island 34-14 to earn a remarkable 63 points but in the end the mountain proved to be too high to climb as Massachusetts (80.5 points) held on for the victory.

"We dug a hole for ourselves after the first round of four-ball but the players never gave up and almost pulled it off with outstanding play in the singles matches," eighth-year team captain Roger Everin said.

Team Connecticut was led by Ben Conroy who earned 9.5 out of a possible 10 points. Connecticut also received strong performances from Ashton Lewis (9 points), Anthony Guerrera (7.5 points), Adam Friedman (7 points), Rick Dowling (7 points), Peter Tomlinson (7 points), Brian Hedstrom (7 points), Jamie Sheltman (6.5 points), Dave Jones (6 points), and Tim Murphy (5.5 points).

"Although we came up a little short," Everin said. "I'm so proud of each of them and how they never gave up and continued to support each other. The main takeaway is all the great memories that each of them will have from getting to represent the CSGA and Connecticut."





2024 CHRIS COTE'S GOLF SHOP ONE DAY SERIES

## THE CHRIS COTE'S ONE DAY SERIES IS ALWAYS A HIT

The One Day Tournament Series sponsored by Chris Cote's Golf Shop is as **popular as ever**.

Once again the One Day Tournament Series sponsored by Chris Cote's Golf Shop filled up tee sheets throughout the state.

"The 2024 One Day Tournament Series was another successful season," said the CSGA's Bob Sparks. "Of course, we have to send out a big thank you to our sponsor Chris Cote's Golf Shop, all the host courses, and of course the players who make it all possible. We can't wait to see everyone back on the tee in 2025!"

The 2024 season introduced several changes including a new registration process through Golf Genius. A huge success amongst the players the new registration process provides easier access and combines all the information for registration, tee times, local rules, results, and Player of the Year standings into one platform. Speaking of the Player of the Year standings Chris Cote's Golf Shop once again provided gift cards for the top three players in the season long points race in each division (Gross & Net).

Back to registration players now have up to 10 days to register without needing to rush to the computer when registration opens. A lottery system was implemented for field selection, but the waitlist has been significantly reduced due to popular courses allowing us to utilize two tee starts and accommodate more players.

However, as always the story each year of the One Day Tournament Series is on the course. This year the schedule featured 15 regular season events plus the 23rd Al Acker One Day Championship at Wethersfield Country Club.

Offering a chance for high level competitive golf the One Day Tournament Series also offers players a chance to play and compete with their friends. The camaraderie of the One Day Tournament Series is felt from the moment the first ball is struck in April until the moment the final putt drops in October.



**2024 One Day Tournament Series Player's of the Year. Ronald Soccoli (far left), Chris Flowers (middle left), Dave Jones (middle right), and Nick Snyder (far right).**



*TETTELBACH GROSS DIVISION*

**CHRIS FLOWERS** played in 11 events picking up two victories to go along with nine top-10 finishes. His victories came at the CC of Waterbury and Tallwood CC.



*SIDEROWF GROSS DIVISION*

**DAVE JONES** in 15 events never finished outside the top-10 while also winning four times. Jones earned his victories at Keney Park GC, Farmington Woods GC, the CC of Farmington, and at the Manchester CC Four-Ball.



## BILODEAU, GODEK WINNERS AT 23RD AL ACKER ONE DAY CHAMPIONSHIP

**O**n a spectacular late October day Kyle Bilodeau and Dean Godek captured the titles at the 23rd Al Acker One Day Championship sponsored by Chris Cote's Golf Shop.

With ideal scoring conditions, Kyle Bilodeau put together the round of the day firing a 3-under 68 to earn a four-stroke victory over Keven Slyne (+1).

Beginning his day on the par-3 12th hole at Wethersfield Country Club, Bilodeau got his round off to a quick start rolling in a 10-footer for birdie.

Bilodeau did give a shot back on the par-5 14th and as he reached the par-4 first he was even-par for the day. With 11 holes remaining in his round Bilodeau needed to find an extra gear and he did. Despite a bogey on No. 3, Bilodeau would play his final 11 holes in 3-under-par with birdies falling on Nos. 1, 2, 6, and 11. His birdie on the par-5 sixth was the result of a stuffed wedge shot that set up a short birdie putt while on the par-4 11th Bilodeau concluded his round by jarring a 20-foot double breaker for birdie.

"It's encouraging to end the season playing some good golf," Kyle Bilodeau said of his victory.

The top five in the Tettelbach Gross Division was rounded out by Eric Bleile, Steven Langlois, Ronald Soccoli, and Jeffrey Delucia in a tie for third at 3-over.

Dean Godek, who began his round on No. 1, played his way to the top of the Siderowf Gross Division leaderboard with a 1-under 70 thanks to a two birdie and one bogey day. Even-par as he played the par-3 17th, Godek flew the green with his tee shot. Facing a difficult second shot Godek chipped in for what proved to be the winning birdie.

"I kept the ball in play," Dean Godek said of his keys to success. "I also made some important putts for par from five to seven feet."

Behind Godek came Mark Vasington (E) in second place followed by Dave Jones (+2) in third. One shot further back were Bill Hermanson and Shane Hassett in a tie for fourth at 3-over.

Leading the way in the Tettelbach Net Division was Bilodeau (-1) with Soccoli (E) in second place. Jason Morrow and Langlois tied for third at 1-over while five players shared fifth at 2-over. The 2-over group included Slyne, Mike Breen, Corey Jones, Tommy Dorso, Jr., and Kyle Nolin.

Pacing the field in the Siderowf Net Division with a 3-under 68 was Mike Krackowsky followed by Bob Fliss and Tom Derienzo in a tie for second at 2-under. Hassett (-1) was fourth while Vasington (E) was fifth.



*TETTELBACH NET DIVISION*

**RONALD SOCCOLI** competed in 14 events earning one win and five top-six finishes. Soccoli picked up his victory at the CC of Farmington and then capped his season with a runner-up finish at the Al Acker One Day Championship.



*SIDEROWF NET DIVISION*

**NICK SNYDER** played in 12 events as he earned Siderowf Net Division Player of the Year honors. Snyder picked up wins at Whitney Farms GC and at the CC of Farmington while also finishing inside the top-six on three other occasions.



GLEN BOGGINI

# April

## Stonington Country Club

April 15  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Gregg Dubois (69)  
 Net: Chris Cote (73)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: John Herbert (72)  
 Net: Eric Litke (70)

## Indian Hill Country Club

April 30  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Rammi Hazzaa (71)  
 Net: Bryce Cote (69)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Glen Boggini (71)  
 Net: Jeff Wise (68)



CHRIS FLOWERS

# July

## Tallwood Country Club

July 2  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Chris Flowers (67)  
 Net: Joseph Cox (65)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Craig Platt (71)  
 Net: Joseph Worthen (68)

## Tumble Brook Country Club

July 8  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Matthew Diramio (69)  
 Net: Conor Deasy (67)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Keith Salamon (68)  
 Net: Frank Flood (67)

## Manchester Country Club (Four-Ball)

July 22  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Matthew Shea & Nick Hynes (61)  
 Net: Jason Dieterle & John Varca (63)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: John Herbert & Brett Franklin (66)  
 Net: Vincent Grillo & Mike Kraczkowsky (64)



DREW BRENNAN

# May

## Country Club of Farmington

May 13  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Jeffrey Delucia (71)  
 Net: Ronald Soccoli (67)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Dave Jones (73)  
 Net: Kieran Kilkenny (69)

## Ellington Ridge Country Club

May 28  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Drew Brennan (70)  
 Net: Adam Mazzadra (70)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: James Lawler (69)  
 Net: James Kmietek (67)



MARK VASINGTON

# August

## Farmington Woods Golf Club

August 5  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Trevor Hislop (74)  
 Net: Matt Muro (70)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Dave Jones (74)  
 Net: Thomas Kim (67)

## Hop Meadow Country Club

August 27  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Rammi Hazzaa (71)  
 Net: Jason Morrow (67)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Mark Vasington (72)  
 Net: Tim Tenero (68)



CRAIG PLATT

# June

## Wampanoag Country Club

June 3  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Eric Bleile (68)  
 Net: Mike Breen (67)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Craig Platt (73)  
 Net: Steven Jordan (65)

## Lake Waramaug Country Club

June 6  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Jim Ezold (73)  
 Net: John Nitz (69)

## Whitney Farms Golf Club

June 18  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Tommy Dorso, Jr. (70)  
 Net: Steven Csejka (69)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Paul Vaitkus (74)  
 Net: Nick Snyder (68)



DAVE JONES

# September

## Keney Park Golf Course

September 3  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Steven Langlois (71)  
 Net: John Swaney (68)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Dave Jones (65)  
 Net: Kieran Kilkenny (64)

## Country Club of Waterbury

September 9  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Chris Flowers (70)  
 Net: Walter Keuchkerian II (67)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: Bill Hermanson (73)  
 Net: Mike Hilton (67)

## Shennecossett Golf Course

September 16  
*Tettelbach Division*  
 Gross: Eric Bleile (70)  
 Net: Corey Jones (67)  
*Siderowf Division*  
 Gross: David Shea (63)  
 Net: Steve Chevalier (69)

# 19TH TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

BULLS BRIDGE GOLF CLUB



Tettelbach Division Winner

Ashton Lewis (-2)



Siderowf Division Winner

Craig Platt (-3)

## 2024 USGA CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS



*MAISIE FILLER*

- Qualified for her first U.S. Women's Open
- Reached U.S. Women's Amateur Round of 16



*BEN JAMES*

- Qualified for his first U.S. Open
- Reached U.S. Amateur Round of 64



*DEBBIE JOHNSON*

- Reached U.S. Senior Women's Amateur Round of 32



*CATHERINE MCEVOY*

- Reached U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Round of 32



*CODY PALADINO*

- Reached U.S. Mid-Amateur Round of 64



### 124th U.S. Open Local Qualifier

April 24 - TPC River Highlands

- 1. Garren Poirier (a) -4 (66)
- 2. Ryan Downes (a) -1 (69)
- T3. Zach Zaback (a) E (70)
- T3. Connor Goode (a) E (70)
- 5. Jason Gobleck +1 (71)

Aidan Mcdermott +1 (71) - 1st Alternate  
Will Gregware (a) +1 (71) - 2nd Alternate



### 43rd U.S. Mid-Amateur Qualifier

August 12 - Ridgewood Country Club

- T1. Richard Dowling -2 (69)
- T1. Andrew Watson -2 (69)
- T3. Thomas McCarthy E (71)
- T3. Justin Beal E (71)

Martin Fournier-Giguere E (71) - 1st Alternate  
James Smith +1 (72) - 2nd Alternate



### 69th U.S. Senior Amateur Qualifier

August 5 - Gillette Ridge Golf Club

- T1. Keith Salamon -3 (69)
- T1. Steven Mann -3 (69)
- 3. Scott D. Mackesy -2 (70)

Rob Cowan E (72) - 1st Alternate  
Philip Pleat +1 (73) - 2nd Alternate



### 10th U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Qualifier

October 1 - Country Club of Farmington

- 1. Ben Cooley & Jake Shuman -9 (62)
- 2. Sam & Will Bernstein -8 (63)

Addison Owens & Jake Marriott -8 (63) - 1st Alternate  
Christopher Sica & Tim Bickford -6 (65) - 2nd Alternate



### 62nd U.S. Senior Women's Amateur Qualifier

August 5 - Gillette Ridge Golf Club

- 1. Leela Narang Benaderet +9 (81)
- 2. Jen Holland +10 (82)
- 3. Suzanne Ricard +11 (83)

Cheryl Ziebka +14 (86) - 1st Alternate  
Lisa Fern-Boros +14 (86) - 2nd Alternate



### 10th U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Qualifier

October 1 - Country Club of Farmington

- 1. Valentina Marie Guertin & Aliya Liberatore -4 (67)
- Amanda Phillips & Mia Holbrook +1 (72) - 1st Alternate
- Amy Goddard & Vaidehi Shah +1 (72) - 2nd Alternate

A photograph of a dark-stained wooden bench with a slatted backrest and armrests, positioned on a green lawn. The background is a blurred golf course with trees and a clear sky. The text '2024 HONOREES' is overlaid in white serif font on the right side of the image.

# 2024 HONOREES



## JACK BRACKEN ENTERS HALL OF FAME

For the last five decades the longtime Hartford Golf Club member has been a stand out player on the course and **an impactful volunteer.**

Jack Bracken's journey in golf began somewhat later in life. Growing up in Hartford, Bracken was a baseball player who occasionally dabbled in golf with high school friends who were members at Wampanoag Country Club.

"Baseball was my sport, and I didn't belong to any club, so I only had the 3-5-7-9 irons, two woods and a putter in my bag," Bracken recalls.

After graduating from The Catholic University School of Law in 1974, Bracken's focus shifted. "I joined Wampanoag CC after graduating from Providence College

in 1970, but I got really serious about my game after law school," said Bracken, who went on to a long career as a prosecutor and litigator. "I didn't get married for a number of years, so the club became my second home. The assistant pros were my close friends, and they put up with me even though I was a terrible golfer at first. I got a lot of advice and free lessons from them, and eventually, I improved from an 18 or 19 handicapper to a respectable level."

"Respectable" might be an understatement. Starting in the mid-1980s, Bracken steadily built a name for himself, first at the state level and eventually on the national stage.

Among his Connecticut State Golf Association achievements, Bracken first earned medalist honors at the north qualifier for the 1984 Connecticut Amateur. He was medalist at the 1990 Connecticut Amateur held at Hartford Golf Club, where he finished runner-up. He again was runner-up at the CC of Fairfield in 1993. He was part of the victorious 1988 CSGA Team Championship squad, was low amateur at the 1999 Connecticut Senior Open, won the 2013 Connecticut Senior Amateur, won the 2017 Connecticut Super Senior Championship, and had other wins and runner-up finishes in Connecticut.

On the national stage, Bracken competed in two U.S. Amateurs, three U.S. Mid-Amateurs, the British Amateur, the British Senior Amateur, and two U.S. Senior Amateurs where he was local medalist twice.

For Bracken, who has been a member of the Hartford GC since 1985, the accolades are impressive, but he takes the most pride in his service to the game.

"I'll be the first to acknowledge that I had a good playing career in Connecticut and nationally," says Bracken, now 76. "But my résumé doesn't compare to a lot of other Hall of Famers. For me, the most important part of my career has been what I tried to give back. My contributions to the CSGA and efforts to improve golf in Connecticut mean the most to me."

Bracken's formal involvement with the CSGA began in 2001 when then-President Peter Bulkeley invited him to become the organization's legal counsel—a role he's held

ever since. In his 23 years on the CSGA Executive Committee, Bracken has worked with 14 presidents and three Executive Directors. He has served on numerous boards, was team captain for two years, and served two terms as the Vice President of Competitions.

Bracken's influence extends to younger golfers, too. At Hartford GC, it's common to see him playing a round with younger members, sharing his wealth of golf knowledge and life experience. Bracken, also an avid cyclist and reader, is known for his willingness to mentor the next generation.

"I often ask young players after a round what the best thing their playing partners could say about them is. Many will say their short game was great, or they drove it well," he explains. "But I tell them that the most important thing is that others say you were a good person to play with."

For years, people have said that about Jack Bracken—that he's a good guy to play with, a dedicated person to work with, and now, they'll also say he is a member of the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame.



Photo Courtesy of Joan Chandler

# JOAN JOYCE IS AMONG THE BEST ATHLETES OF ALL TIME

The legendary Joan Joyce didn't seriously pursue golf until she was 35 years-old. Now she is a member of the **Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame**.

**J**oan Joyce was already an elite softball, volleyball, and basketball player. Then she decided to play golf.

The legend of Joan Joyce began in "the circle." The Waterbury native pitched all over the world throwing 150 no-hitters and 50 perfect games. In 1974 her team, the Raybestos Brakettes, became the first American team to win the world championship. In exhibition games at Municipal Stadium in Waterbury, she struck out Ted Williams and Hank Aaron.

In volleyball, she competed in national tournaments and was a player and coach

for the United States Volleyball Association. On the basketball court, which was her favorite sport, she starred at Crosby High School, and in 1964 and 1965 she played on the U.S. Women's National Team.

However, her greatest accomplishment might be what she accomplished on the golf course. When Joyce retired from playing softball in 1975 her friend and LPGA Tour Legends Hall of Fame inductee Jane Blalock suggested after years of leisurely playing the game that she should seriously pursue golf. Despite being 35 years-old at the time Joyce quickly excelled and 18 months later at the

age of 37 she was a member of the LPGA Tour.

"Joan had the perfect temperament for golf, the perfect attitude," Jane Blalock told Tony Renzoni, the author of three books and the writer of a musical about Joan Joyce. "She had a mechanically sound golf swing. And such great touch and finesse, a great feel."

Born in Waterbury on August 18, 1940, Joan Joyce is widely considered one of the best women athletes of all time, and her accolades back that up. With her induction into the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame

Joyce, who passed away at the age of 81 in 2022, has now been inducted into a remarkable 23 hall of fames.

"She would love that she was inducted to the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame," said Renzoni. "She was really excited about golf because she didn't take up golf until she was 35 years-old. That's the first time she ever really got into training, which is incredible because so many start when they are young. Joan never had that, but she had that natural ability."

A member of the tour from 1977-1994, Joyce had three career sixth-place finishes. However, one round of golf stands out amongst the rest.

It was May 16, 1982, and on that day Joyce was set to compete in the final round of the Michelob Classic in Atlanta. It was a less than ideal day for golf. The wind was howling and there was a looming threat of thunderstorms. Early in her round Joyce

realized something special was happening on the greens. She was making everything and she was chipping in from all over the place.

"After the 14th hole, I told one of the officials that I was going to break the putting record," Joyce told Renzoni. "She turned to me and said, 'You must be crazy!' So, I told her, well maybe, but I am going to break the record. I just knew it!"

And break it she did. At the age of 42 and just seven years after committing to the game Joyce only needed 17 putts to complete her round.

Remarkably, as successful as Joyce's playing careers were she was nearly as successful as a coach. In 1976 Joyce co-founded the Women's Professional Softball League alongside Billie Jean King and others. In addition, to being a co-founder Joyce also served as the coach and part-owner of the Connecticut Falcons leading the franchise

to all four of the league's championships.

Her success as a coach continued after her retirement from golf and in 1995 she assumed the role of head coach for the Florida Atlantic University softball team amassing 1,000 career wins. During that same time period, from 1996-2014, Joyce also served as the head coach of the Florida Atlantic women's golf team.

When you step back and take a bird's eye view of the life and career of Joan Joyce it is almost impossible to comprehend. Simply put she was great at anything she put her mind to. Golf might have come later in her career journey but that makes her accomplishments all the more impressive.

"She's always amazed at everything," Renzoni said. "But being inducted into the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame is unique because it's not about softball or basketball. She grew to love golf, so for her, this would be really cool."





## A GOLF LIFER ENTERS THE HALL OF FAME

Del Kinney, Jr. has spent a lifetime playing, volunteering, and working in golf. Now he is a member of the **Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame**.

**D**el Kinney, Jr. is the definition of a golfer. His father Delmore Kinney, Sr. worked in the game so it was at the young age of four years old that Kinney first began playing the sport that would in many ways shape his life.

Kinney's father was involved in all aspects of the game from serving as the secretary for the Connecticut Section PGA, to assistant professional at The Misquamicut Club in Rhode Island, to general manager at the then brand new Tunxis Country Club.

"My dad told me that when he was 12 years-old he knew he wanted to be a golfer. I remember being dumbfounded," 83 year-old Del Kinney, Jr. said. "I was trying to just get through high school and the idea that somebody could know at that age that that's what they wanted to do was unbelievable to me. But my dad knew his passion and always went to work with a tie. He was a classic gentleman."

Around that same time, Kinney began to flourish on the golf course breaking 80 for the first time. Proud of the accomplishment Kinney told anyone who would take a moment to listen. That afternoon Kinney's fa-

ther passed along a lifelong lesson that still resonates today, "He pulled me aside in the afternoon and said, 'You don't tell anybody. If you're good, people will know it. So just stifle all the comments that you're making. You know, we're proud of you. Nice job.' Then he left it at that and that has stayed with me."

Kinney, who lives in Egremont, Massachusetts with his wife Georgette, became so good at golf that he played in college at the University of New Mexico.

Following college Kinney was a regular in local and state events winning his first significant event, the New England Four-Ball Championship, at the age of 35.

"Then somehow I won a lot throughout my 40s," Kinney the winner of the 1986 and 1990 Connecticut Public Links said. "I don't know where that came from but part of it was the experience of having played for a long time."

Kinney, the Dean of Admissions for 30 years at Western Connecticut State University, at the urging of then CSGA president Jock McLean began volunteering for the CSGA in 1985. When he joined the Executive Committee Kinney became the first board member to belong to a public golf course.

"I enjoyed the company of the volunteers and members of the Executive Committee. They were wonderful men," Kinney stated. "Being able to represent public golf spurred me on and then it snowballed."

Eventually, that snowball effect led Kinney, a USGA volunteer for 39 years from 1994-2023 and the recipient of the Ike Granger Award for his service, to the CSGA Executive Director chair in 1997. During his four-year tenure, Kinney oversaw not only the 100th anniversary of the CSGA but also ushered in numerous significant changes that moved the organization forward.

Among his accomplishments, Kinney introduced the club representative program that is still in effect today, updated the CSGA logo and website, and introduced a college summer internship program, while also strengthening the organization's relationships with the Connecticut Section PGA, Connecticut Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Connecticut Women's Golf Association, and the Southern New England Women's Golf Association.

"A lot of things were accomplished that we couldn't have gotten done without his direction," CSGA president Bill Starkie said at the time of Kinney's retirement.

The direction that Kinney set is one that is still being followed today. His impact on the Connecticut golf landscape goes well beyond his play on the course, his time on the Executive Committee, or in the Executive Director chair. It is because of that ever lasting impact that Kinney will be inducted into the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame.

"I'm not a person that appears on the surface wildly excited," Kinney said when asked what his induction meant. "But internally, I still can't quite put my arms around the magnitude of it. Everyone has been nice and offering congratulations. It's one of those things that's very difficult to put into words, the importance of it."

A simple way to put it could be...A life in golf well lived!

# THE TOP OF THE HILL

Indian Hill Country Club has long been dedicated to **supporting golf in Connecticut.**

It is a typical summer weekday. The final match of the morning session of the 18th Senior Match Play Championship is still at least 30 minutes away from teeing off. Yet as the early morning sun casts its long shadows across the sprawling Indian Hill Country Club layout a large queue of players begins to form on the putting green above the first tee. The players know they won't be able to tee off for upwards of another hour and a half but that doesn't matter. All that matters is that they reserve their spot on the first tee.

This scene plays out on a regular basis at the golf crazed Indian Hill Country Club. It is for that reason and for the club's dedication to golf in Connecticut that Indian Hill CC has been named the 2024 Walter 'Bud' Smith Distinguished Club Award recipient.

"It is definitely an honor," said head professional Wayne Smyth. "We feel like we have our members and golf in general and we take care of them. We don't have all the extracurriculars so we're pretty proud of the place. We are really excited about the whole thing."

Located in Newington and originally a nine-hole course called Maple Hill Golf Club, Indian Hill CC is a regular host of CSGA events and is dedicated to supporting the Connecticut golf community. Each year in addition to CSGA events the club works with the Town of Newington to host clinics and recently added a PGA Junior League team.

"The board of directors and the membership in general are proud to be part of the Connecticut golf community and the CSGA," Smyth said. "We have a rich history of players that have won state championships and a number of members who volunteer with the CSGA and we are proud of that."

Speaking of champions Indian Hill CC, which celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2024, is known as the 'Home of Champions' and since 1926 boasts numerous state championship winners. Indian Hill CC members have won five Connecticut Junior Amateurs, three Connecticut Amateur titles, three Connecticut Opens, and two Connecticut Senior Amateur titles to go along with numerous Connecticut Golf Hall of Famers.

However, what makes Indian Hill CC stand out is its charm and membership. A traditional New England routing, Indian Hill CC meanders up and down hills offering members a fun yet challenging layout. The course, which is always in pristine condition thanks to the watchful eye of Superintendent Marc Weston, also includes plenty of character. Most notable is the sign next to the tee box of the downhill par-3 fifth which overlooks Willard Avenue that reads, 'Road Hole...3,171 miles to the other one.'

"That is the humor of Marc Weston," Smyth said with a laugh, "He had been to the Old Course and saw the Road Hole sign and came up with the idea about our Road Hole. If you miss the green by too much on the far side of it, you're literally hitting it into the road."

The Indian Hill CC version of the Road Hole is far from the minds of the large contingent of members that set off on their rounds on the picture-perfect summer morning. For the moment all that matters is the prospect of watching their ball hurtle through the sky towards the opening fairway at Indian Hill CC, one of the gems of Connecticut golf.

"The club is open and welcoming to everybody and nowadays that is more important than anything," Smyth expressed. "The feeling people get when they come to Indian Hill CC is that they are welcome. It's relaxing. There's not a lot of fuss and people enjoy themselves when they're here."

What more could you ask for?



2024 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: WALT CHAPMAN

## NOW ON THE TEE WALT CHAPMAN

A CSGA volunteer since 2015 Walt Chapman has sent thousands of players on their way at **One Day Tournaments throughout the state.**

**T**he mid-April sun stretches across the fairway at Stonington Country Club. As the clock ticks slowly towards 8 a.m. the first group of the new CSGA season approaches the first tee for the opening One Day Tournament of the year. Standing there awaiting their approach is Walt Chapman as he has for over half a decade.

A volunteer since 2015, Chapman has been welcoming players to the opening tee at One Day Tournaments since 2019. Chapman has manned his post through cold, rain, wind, and heat. His presence on the first tee has become as dependable as the changing of the New England seasons. For those reasons and many more Walt Chapman is the 2024 Volunteer of the Year.

“There are so many great volunteers and I didn’t know that my contributions were that good in comparison,” Walt Chapman expressed. “But it is always nice to be acknowledged for the work that you do. Obviously, I am a volunteer so it’s something that I enjoy doing.”

In 2014 Chapman retired from Retail America where he was a manager of process improvement. Shortly after retirement and with the encouragement of longtime CSGA volunteer and former president Stan McFarland, “we went down to the CSGA office where I talked to Mike Moraghan and Ryan Hoffman about how I might be able to serve and what roles there were. I got a little bit of an education in that meeting about the kinds of things that the CSGA did.”

Initially, Chapman began volunteering as a member of the course rating team before transitioning to tournament volunteering. It was a short time after that when former CSGA staff member Marsha Rupp asked Chapman if he was interested in serving as

the starter at One Day Tournaments. As the saying goes the rest is history.

“I really did enjoy it from the very first event that I did as a starter,” Chapman reminisced. “I don’t even remember where it was, but I enjoyed it. I enjoy the informality of the One Days. There aren’t announcements on the tee. I get to chat with the players and get to know them, so that’s the part I truly enjoy.”

Chapman’s love for golf had a bit of a rocky start. His father, Bill, worked at Pratt & Whitney and despite never playing golf in his life he joined a golf league with a number of his co-workers and caught the bug. Eventually, when Chapman was around the age of 10 he joined his father on the course, playing often at Goodwin Park.

“He was a terrible golfer, but he respected the game and taught me the basics of the game and etiquette,” remembered Chapman with a laugh. “But I would get frustrated with him. As an example, he couldn’t hit the ball more than 175 yards or something like that. I was able to hit the ball farther than him but he scored better than me and that got frustrating so I quit the game. I said, this is a stupid game and I quit it for a long time.”

Years later Chapman, who in the past has also volunteered for Hartford Hospital and the Wethersfield Social Services, found his way back to the game on a whim. While home from college Chapman and his high school buddies were looking for something to do. Somehow the idea of playing golf came up so the group went to the course and that round of golf changed everything for Chapman.

“I had to go downstairs in the basement before the round and put together a set of clubs,” Chapman said. “I went out there and I discovered a whole new aspect of the game. It’s not just swinging the club and hitting the ball in the hole. It’s being with friends, being in nature, listening to the birds. It struck me that it was really so much more than that competitive stuff. We had a great time that day and I decided I would play some more.”

And play some more he did. At first, he played any course with an early morning weekend tee time. Then he joined Manchester Country Club before moving to Wethersfield Country Club where he would play nearly every day.

Now back at Manchester CC, Chapman has traveled the world playing Pebble Beach and the Old Course among others.

“I fell in love with that aspect of it,” Chapman stated. “I did an awful lot of (traveling). I’ve been very, very lucky to have played more than a quarter of the top 100 golf courses in the world just because I enjoyed the travel and I enjoyed playing golf. It was just kind of a natural thing for me to do.”

Anything golf related comes naturally to Walt Chapman. Whether it is striding down fairways around the world or welcoming players to first tees throughout the state Chapman lives and breathes golf.

“I appreciate giving back (to the game),” Chapman said. “I would even say I live my golf vicariously now. Because I don’t play as much, I’m not as competitive, but boy do I enjoy seeing these guys tee off and hit the ball hard and far down the middle.”



Find Video Highlights from the 2024 season by visiting our CSGA YouTube channel or by scanning the QR code below.



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# THOSE WE REMEMBER



**Walter Lowell**  
1932 - 2024

One of the most respected PGA professionals in Connecticut history, Walter Lowell was the consummate gentleman who advised, inspired and paved the way for countless young professionals. Dating back to the founding of the PGA Connecticut Section in 1933, he remains the only individual to serve two separate terms as President, from 1971-1974 and again from 1977-1980. He received the PGA Section's Professional Development Award in both 1973 and in 1981, and in 1986 was named the Section's Teacher of the Year.

In 1978 Walter became the first Connecticut professional to receive national recognition as the PGA of America Golf Professional of the Year. The following year in 1979, he was inducted into the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame. When the PGA Section established its Hall of Fame in 2008, Walter was among its first class of inductees. Walter's legacy lives on in perpetuity through the Walter Lowell PGA Tournament, and through the Walter Lowell Public Golf Course Distinguished Service Award which was established in 2001 and recognizes a public course in the Section that employs a PGA professional and is dedicated to promoting the game of golf.

**Kammy Maxfeldt**  
1961 - 2024

A Nebraska native, Kammy developed a love for golf at a young age. She competed in her first tournament at the age of ten, became a high school golfer, a college golfer at the University of Oklahoma, and competed professionally for decades after college. She loved to play and compete, and over the course of her life, she qualified for five USGA championships, played eighty-four of the top one hundred golf courses in the United States, and made thirteen hole-in-ones.

Kammy worked at golf courses in six different states, with her final twenty-one years as the Head Golf Professional at Birchwood Country Club in Westport. Kammy enjoyed teaching golf, especially to children whom she taught more than golf, she taught life lessons too. She was the 2013 National LPGA Professional of the Year and was ranked the #1 Golf Instructor in Connecticut by Golf Digest for 2022-2023. In 2024 Kammy was honored as the Metropolitan Section PGA Golf Professional of the Year.



**W.W. "Bill" Whedon**  
1927 - 2024



Bill was born in Madison, Connecticut, graduated from Hand High School in Madison, and then after serving three years in the U.S. Army, went on to attend Nichols College in Dudley, Massachusetts. Raising a family in West Hartford, Bill worked in sales for several companies before starting Whedon Products, Inc. in 1976. He retired in 1997 to travel more with his wife, Polly, and pursue his love of golf by playing more and making custom golf clubs.

An emeritus member of the CSGA Board of Directors, Bill's legendary golf accomplishments included winning more than 30 club championships at Country Club of Farmington and Madison Country Club combined. His golf fame was not limited to Connecticut, for in the 1955 Insurance City Open won by Sam Snead at Wethersfield Country Club, Bill became the first person, and only amateur, to ever record two holes in one in a single round at a PGA tournament.

# 2025 SITES

Two Man Championship  
Russell C. Palmer Cup  
Connecticut Women's Open  
Connecticut Amateur  
Connecticut Junior Amateur  
Connecticut Girls' Junior  
Connecticut Women's Amateur  
The Borck Jr.  
Connecticut Open  
Connecticut Public Links  
Connecticut Mid-Amateur  
Father & Son Championship  
Senior Four-Ball Championship

Black Hall Club  
CC of Waterbury  
Hartford GC  
Shuttle Meadow CC  
Watertown GC  
Watertown GC  
Redding CC  
Aspetuck Valley CC  
Black Hall Club  
Rockledge GC  
GC of Avon  
Madison CC  
Torrington CC

\*Visit [csgalinks.org](http://csgalinks.org) in February 2025 for the complete schedule

