

GOLF | STATE AMATEUR

Veteran Pirie's 69 gives him early lead

By KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

PORTSMOUTH — The marquee pairing of the qualifying rounds of the 109th Rhode Island State Amateur is laced with intrigue and stocked with golfing talent.

Defending champion Brad Valois has been the state's top player for the last decade and is looking to join select company if he can win a fifth State Am this week. Patrick Welch, the 14-year-old Boy Wonder from Providence, continues to improve with his cross-handed grip and slick short game. And, thirdly, there is Dr.

George Pirie.



Pirie

The pride of Valley Country Club won the first of his three State Amateurs in 1989 when Valois was a mere toddler and Welch just a dream. But the 64-year-old was the story

on day one of the tournament at Montaup Country Club as he shot a 2-under 69 to top the field by one stroke.

"I had fun out there today," Pirie said with a smile as he sipped a drink in the clubhouse. "Playing with Brad and Patrick was a lot of fun, two guys with a lot of talent. I kind of lost it a little on Sunday (at Valley, where he shot a 76) so I was a little uneasy coming in here, but things went well today."

Pirie made five birdies, three on long putts at the 11th, 14th and 15th holes. That gave him a three-under score on the back nine and a one-stroke lead when he finished his round at around 1:30. There were a few challengers to his lead late in the day, most notably from Montaup member Gerald Santos, who settled for an even-par 71, but only four other players came in under par with another 18 holes of qualifying set for Tuesday. Ben Tuthill (the 2000 champion), McKinley Slade, Rob Grossguth and Kevin Nery put up one-under 70s. Valois, Santos and Rick Audette came in at even-par 71.

Pirie's last win in the Amateur came in 2004 at Alpine. Asked if he feels he can win again a decade later, he said, "Of course. Otherwise I

wouldn't be here."

Valois is two shots back and will surely be a focal point of the event all week. A lefty who grew up playing Valley and admiring Dr. Pirie, Valois won the Amateur in 2006, 2007, 2011 and a year ago at Quidnessett in convincing fashion. Only two men have five titles to their credit — Bobby Allen and Ronnie Quinn. The record-holder is Daniel Fairchild, a Rumford businessman who won six times from 1907-21.

A 27-year-old who works as a financial analyst, Valois polishes his game these days at Metacomet Country Club. He says he's struggled a bit early this year and did miss the cut (75-74-80) at the Northeast Amateur last month, but he still feels good entering the week. A long hitter with great touch, Valois knows that this week's challenges at the short, 6375-yard course will be around the greens.

"The course is short, but that makes the winds out here very tricky," he said. "You have to keep everything in play, but I still hit driver most of the time. The key will be around the greens, and with the wind I don't think you'll see too many low scores."

Welch, who will be a freshman at LaSalle in September, bogeyed two of the first three holes but rebounded nicely and shot 72. As usual, he showed his game is beyond his years, not only by settling down and shooting one-under over the final 15 holes, but also by being dissatisfied afterwards.

"I played decent, but I left a few out there," he said. "I've been inconsistent coming in here, but I like this course a lot. It's very fair, and being long here is not really the challenge. The greens are a little slow, but we'll get used to them."

Welch shot 74-69 at Cohasset last month to qualify for the U.S. Juniors, which will be played in two weeks at The Woodlands, just outside of Houston, Tex. He advanced to the final 16 of the State Amateur last summer and would like to take things a few steps further this week.

SOCCER | WORLD CUP

Brazil knows things could be worse

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil — Brazil did it once without Pele, and just about everyone in the country is waiting and hoping to do it again without Neymar.

The Brazilians advanced to the semifinals of the World Cup last week, but they lost their best player in doing so. Neymar, the national team's star attraction with the same yellow No. 10 shirt that Pele made world famous, broke a vertebra after being kneed in the back and will miss the rest of the tournament.

That means Brazil will have to do without Neymar's quick moves and sharp shooting when the team plays Germany in the semifinals on Tuesday at Mineirão Stadium. And for the final, if they make it that far.

"It will be difficult, but we can win it without Neymar," said Matheus Christoff, a 22-year-old chemical engineering student from Belo Horizonte. "In 1962, we won without Pele, so we can win without Neymar."

Pele became a global star when he was only 17, scoring two goals in the 1958 final to give Brazil its first World Cup title. Four years later in Chile, he was injured

in the opening round and was forced to sit and watch as his teammates won again.

But win they did, with Garrincha stepping up to carry the load.

This time around, there is no obvious goal-scoring replacement for Neymar, who cuts his hair in a faux hawk and has become the face of the World Cup, at least on billboards and in TV commercials all over Brazil.

Or, instead of one player stepping up to provide the goals, maybe there is more than one.

"They have another 22 players," said Patricia Mendes, a 35-year-old consultant in Belo Horizonte. "If they wear the yellow jersey, they can score."

Neymar did most of the damage himself in the first round, scoring four goals in the opening three matches to put Brazil at the top of Group A. The two strikers playing alongside him, Fred and Hulk, have combined to score only one goal, while defender David Luiz has provided

the offense by scoring two in the last two matches.

A slumbering attack, now without its most important component, is going to make it hard against the Germans, who seem to have put their defense back together after a substandard performance in the second round. And the loss of Brazil captain Thiago Silva, who is suspended for the match after foolishly picking up a yellow card in the quarterfinal win over Colombia, is going to make things even tougher.

"I really don't think we can win without Neymar and Thiago Silva," said 23-year-old Rafael Seixas, who works at his family's convenience store in Belo Horizonte. "They are the best players in the team, and Germany is really good."

The thought of losing to Germany, however odious that may be for most Brazilians, is still better than considering one other possibility of this year's World Cup — an ultimate victory for Argentina on Sunday at the Maracanã Stadium.

"That," Seixas said, "would be the worst possible scenario for the World Cup in Brazil."



Alves

PRO BASKETBALL

Heat reach agreements with McRoberts, Granger

JOURNAL WIRE REPORTS

While waiting for LeBron James, the Miami Heat are apparently giving him some more options to think about.

The Heat announced Monday that they intend to sign forwards Danny Granger and Josh McRoberts when the NBA's moratorium on deals being formally struck ends later this week.

Granger has agreed to sign a two-year deal, with an option for the second of those seasons. McRoberts agreed to a four-year contract, the last year also being an option, in a deal that could be worth about \$23 million.

Heat President Pat Riley is planning to meet with James later this week, in an effort to convince him to stay in Miami. James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh are all free agents, and none have said where they will be playing next season and beyond.

But even after going to the NBA Finals in four straight seasons, winning two championships, this was going to be an offseason of change for the Heat. Miami entered free agency with only Norris Cole under a guaranteed contract for this coming season. The Heat have a partially guaranteed deal with Justin Hamilton and the rights to guard Shabazz Napier, who was acquired on draft night.

So there are obviously plenty of slots to fill, and on Monday, the Heat began tipping

their hand on who will get those jobs.

Yahoo Sports reported that Granger would receive a deal worth about \$22 million annually. McRoberts' agent, Mike Conley Sr., said his client would get the full mid-level exception, starting at about \$5.3 million next season.

In other NBA news:

■ If LeBron James does not return to the Heat, chances are good that Chris Bosh will also be gone. Reports out of Houston indicate that Bosh has been offered a max contract (4 years, \$96 million) by the Rockets.

■ Nets forward Paul Pierce reportedly wants a two-year, \$18-million contract to return to New Jersey. There are reports that Pierce might be interested in heading to the Clippers, where he would be united with Doc Rivers, his former coach with the Celtics.

■ Channing Frye, who did not play this past season due to a heart issue, reportedly has agreed to a 4-year, \$32-million contract with the Orlando Magic.

■ The Memphis Grizzlies have finalized a contract extension with forward Zach Randolph and signed first-round draft pick Jordan Adams to a multiyear contract. Randolph exercised his 2014-15 player option and signed a multiyear extension. Randolph exercised his 2014-15 player option and signed a multiyear extension. Randolph exercised his 2014-15 player option and signed a multiyear extension.

■ The Celtics' next summer league game is Wednesday night at 7, against Detroit.

Celtics struggle against Pacers

JOURNAL STAFF

The Indiana Pacers overcame a slow start and overwhelmed the Boston Celtics in a 96-77 victory Monday afternoon in the Orlando Summer League.

The Celtics led by as many as 18 points in the first quarter, and held a double-digit lead for most of the second quarter. But Indiana outscored Boston by 43-7 over an 11-minute stretch late in the first half and early in the second half, turning what had been a 13-point deficit into a 23-point lead, 69-46.

Rookie point guard Marcus Smart, the

No. 6 pick in the June draft, struggled shooting for the second consecutive game, going just 3-for-15 from the field. Kelly Olynyk led the Celtics with 15 points, but he shot just 5-of-13. Overall, the Celtics shot 34 percent and were out-rebounded, 43-34.

Willie Reed, an NBA Development League veteran who has never played in an NBA game, led the Pacers with 18 points, and also blocked four shots.

The Celtics' next summer league game is Wednesday night at 7, against Detroit.

IN THE NEWS

SAILING

Alhmedica team named

Team Alhmedica skipper **Charlie Enright**, of Bristol, on Monday named five of the six sailors who will accompany him and co-founder Mark Towill in the upcoming Volvo Ocean Race. The race crew will include **Nick Dana**, 28, of Newport; **Alberto Berman**, 30, of Los Angeles; **William Cowley**, 30, of Australia; and **Dave Swets**, 30, of New Zealand. **Amory Ross**, 30, of Newport, will be the on-board reporter. Team Alhmedica is completing its work at the Newport Shipyard this week and sets out at 2 p.m. Wednesday for a transatlantic training run to the United Kingdom with the newly named crew. The team leave Newport alongside Volvo Ocean Race opponent Team Abu Dhabi for a promotional start out of Narragansett Bay that the public is invited to view from Fort Adams State Park.

OLYMPICS

Field is narrowed

The International Olympic Committee has retained three bid cities in the race for the 2022 Winter Olympics — Beijing, Oslo and Almaty, Kazakhstan. The three were the only remaining contenders after a series of withdrawals by other candidates. The IOC executive board decided Monday to approve all three as finalists rather than cut the field any further. The cities must submit their

detailed bid files to the IOC by next January. The host city will be selected in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on July 31, 2015.

BASKETBALL

Hairston facing charges

Charlotte Hornets rookie guard **P.J. Hairston** is scheduled to appear in Durham County Court next month on misdemeanor charges of assault and battery following an altercation at a pickup basketball game on Sunday. Hairston, 21, was issued a summons but will not be arrested. Hairston issued a statement through the team apologizing to the organization and its fans for "creating a distraction." **Matthew Berkley**, a 6-foot-5, 190-pound 17-year-old senior at North Durham High School, said in court documents that Hairston "punched him twice in the head" during a heated basketball game at the Durham YMCA.

A neurologist has testified that **Donald Sterling** has Alzheimer's disease as a trial over the Los Angeles Clippers sale finally gets underway. Dr. **Michael S. Poon** said Monday that he was hired by Sterling's wife, Shelly, to evaluate him. The NBA has moved to stop Sterling as team owner because of racist remarks he made. **Shelly Sterling** has made a \$2 billion deal to sell the Clippers to former Microsoft CEO **Steve Ballmer**, but Donald Sterling claims she didn't have authority to make a unilateral agreement. Earlier in the day, a federal

judge rejected a motion by Sterling's lawyers to move the case to federal court. Sterling was the first person to take to testify Monday but he wasn't in court and was ordered to show up Tuesday afternoon when the trial resumes.

HOCKEY

Surgery to slow Fisher

Nashville Predators forward **Chris Fisher** has a ruptured Achilles tendon that likely will cause him to miss at least the start of the upcoming season. The Predators said that Fisher underwent surgery Thursday after rupturing the Achilles during a training session.

CYCLING

Kittel takes third stage

Germany's **Marcel Kittel** showed he may be the sprinter to beat at the Tour de France, speeding to his second stage win this year in Stage 3 on Monday as cycling's biggest race entered London before leaving England for France. Rain in the London downpour did not stop the 155-kilometer (96-mile) ride from the university town of Cambridge to a dramatic finish past landmarks Big Ben and Westminster. Italy's **Vincenzo Nibali** retained the overall leader's yellow jersey with a 2-second lead over the most likely contenders to win the three-week race in Paris on July 27.

Journal Wire Reports

TUESDAY ON THE AIR

Pro Baseball

1 p.m. (YES) Cubs-Reds
7 p.m. (WEEI-FM) WSAR White Sox-Red Sox
7 p.m. (YES) Dodgers-Tigers
7 p.m. WPRV Yankees-Indians
7 p.m. WHUJ WNBH WNRJ PawSox-Columbus Clippers

Soccer

4 p.m. (ESPN UNIC) World Cup semifinal, Brazil-Germany

NBA Basketball

7 p.m. (NBA) Summer League, Mavericks-Grizzlies
9 p.m. (NBA) Summer League, Heat-Pistons
7 p.m. (NBA) Summer League, Rockets-76ers

WNBA Basketball

7 p.m. (ESPN2) Connecticut Sun-Atlanta Dream
9 p.m. (ESPN2) Los Angeles Sparks-Minnesota Lynx

Cycling

7:30 a.m. (Eurosport) Tour de France, Stage 4

Pro Softball

7 p.m. (ESPN3) USSSA Pride-Pennsylvania Rebellion

RADIO DIALS

WACK (1540), WARR (1320), WBZ (1030), WBZ-FM (98.5), WCX (1080), WBSM (1420), WEAN-FM (99.7), WEEI-FM (103.7), WRKO (920), WLWV (1450), WNBH (1340), WNRJ (1380), WOON (1240), WPRR (1030), WPRV-FM (108.3), WRUJ-FM (90.3), WSAR (1480), WWDB-FM (101.5), WXLX-FM (100.7)

GOLF

U.S. Amateur Championship

At Montauk, C.T. Potomac

First round

Dr. George Pines, 68 Ben Tull, 72 Kevin

Rich Austin, 71, David Santos, 71, Ben

Valley, 72, Greg Gagliardi, 71, Jackson

Lyons, 72, Eric Marchetti, 72, Kyle Hoffman, 72, Owen

Lyons, 72, Tom McCormick, 72, Paul Quigley,

72, Patrick Walsh, 72, Joe Adkins, 71, Mike

Hammond, 71, John Graham, 71, Jon Costa, 71, 73

71, Mike Thompson, 71, Will Hall, 71, David

Donnelly, 71, James Lawrence, 71, Trevor Welles,

71, Don Wright, 74, Jake Bauer, 71, Charlie

Blanchard, 74, Christopher DeLuca, 74,

James Randall, 74,

Josh Lewis, 73, Matthew O'Leary, 73,

Gregory Gargano, 72, Andrew Jankowski, 71,

71, David Acosta, 71, Tyler Fox, 71, James Griggs,

71, Bruce Newman, 71, Jeff Maher, 71, Jonathan

Geary, 71, Jason Kallen, 71, Dave Hurlst, 71, 71

71, Mike Bennett, 71, Jason Fox, 71, Greg

Lakeway, 71, Zachary Rogers, 71, Tom Anello,

71, Mike Bennett, 71, Ray Barrow, 71, President

Lemo, 71, Chris O'Neil, 71, El Whitney, 71,

Kevin Marshall, 71, Ethan Zetter, 71, Kurt

Reichman, 71, David Rosales, 71, Alexander

Lanning, 71, Tim Carroll, 71, Matt Costello,

71, James Pines, 71, James Pines, 71, John

Chandler, 71, Tyler Cooke, 71, Chris Holland, 71,

71, Steve Lott, 71, Robert Lott, 71, 80, Robert

Scott, 80, Jim Stallman, 80, Salma Ferrelly,

80, Tom McCarty, 80, Steve Schuch, 80, Andy

Coughlin, 80, Pat Healey, 80, Joseph Tucker, 80,

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TENNIS | HALL OF FAME CHAMPIONSHIPS

Isner, Mahut feeling right at home

Past champions prevail in their first-round matches in their favorite city by the sea

By CAROLYN THORNTON
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

NEWPORT — John Isner and Nicolas Mahut have both enjoyed success at the Tennis Hall of Fame Championships. Between the two of them, they have claimed each of the last three singles titles. Isner won titles in 2011 and 2012, while Mahut captured last year's Van Alen Cup as a wildcard entry and also won the doubles title with fellow countryman Edouard Roger-Vasselin.

Isner and Mahut both say that they always receive a warm welcome when they come to Newport.

"It's awesome," said Isner. "I've always had a great reception here, and I appreciate that so much."

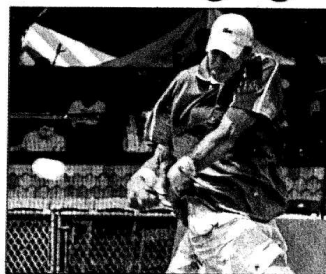
Mahut looks forward to having dinner at the Cooke House Restaurant every time he is in town and says Newport almost feels like home, noting that "People were nice to me [here] than they were in France."

Before they began enjoying all of their success at the Newport tournament, Isner and Mahut became forever connected after playing each other in the longest match in tennis history, when they battled for 11 hours and 5 minutes in the first round of the 2010 Wimbledon.

Back in the comforts of their adopted "home" this week, neither Isner nor Mahut needed anywhere near that much time to secure opening-round victories, as both won in straight sets at the 38th Hall of Fame Tennis Championships on Tuesday afternoon.

Mahut, the No. 4 seed, took an hour and a half to post a 7-6, 6-4 victory over Facundo Arguello of Argentina.

A short time later, Isner wrapped up his match in 1:19, beating fellow American Wayne Odesnik in straight sets, 6-3, 7-6.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL: FRIEDA SQUIRES

John Isner fires a return to Wayne Odesnik during their first-round match on Tuesday at the Newport Casino.

"I've had a lot of success here, especially the last three years," said the top-seeded Isner, who admitted he felt a few butterflies at the start of his first match on Centre Court. "I don't know of a tournament where I've won 14 of the last 15 matches. I mean, that's pretty impressive. So I'm glad that I'm here, and hopefully I can keep going. I've had good memories here in the past."

A native of North Carolina, who now makes his home in Tampa, the 29-year-old Isner is coming off his best showing at Wimbledon, where he lost a four-setter in the third round to Rafael Nadal.

Extending his overall record at the Newport tourney to 14-3 with Tuesday's win, the 6-foot-10 Isner's powerful serve was once again on display, as he recorded 10 aces and double-faulted only twice against the 28-year-old Odesnik, making 78 percent of his serves in the deciding set.

"The first match here is always tricky," said Isner, ranked No. 1 in the U.S. and 12th in the world. "The surface is just different. On top of that, I was playing a left-hander, and that's not easy either. So I'm happy I got the win. It got a little dicey there at the end where I could have closed it out a little earlier."

Ranked 59th in the world, Mahut also was making a quick turnaround from Wimbledon, where he lost in the first round of the singles tournament, but advanced to the doubles semifinals with Michael Llodra.

Making 54 percent of his serves, he had 11 aces and six double-faults against the 21-year-old Arguello, improving his overall record at Newport to 16-7.

"I'm 111 years older, so I've got more experience and it helped me for the close moments, like the tiebreaker for set," said Mahut, 32.

"I had a tough game session. I lost a couple of matches, so the confidence is not high as it was last year," he added. "But here it's different. You know anybody can beat anybody. You have to stay focused on yourself, hold the serve and then wait for an opportunity to break. It was not a good match today, but the most important thing is that I got through and I have the chance to play another match tomorrow, and that will be a different story."

Shortly after completing his match, Isner learned that he would be throwing out the first pitch at Tuesday night's game between the Red Sox and the Chicago White Sox. "It's going to be awesome," he said. "I've never been to Fenway period, so my initial thought was that I just wanted to go to the game. Then I get off the court, and I hear the good news that I get to throw out the first pitch. So it's definitely an honor. I love baseball for a pastime, and I'm going to enjoy that moment. Hopefully I throw a strike."

Also Tuesday, No. 3 seed and two-time runner-up Lleyton Hewitt came from behind to post a three-set victory over American Ryan Harrison, 1-6, 7-5, 6-4.

"At the start I tried to come out and play really clean tennis, and it's totally different courts and conditions to playing in London," the 33-year-old Australian said. "That was the hardest thing, but sort of in the end I just tried to win ugly more than anything. With this wind over here on these courts, they're not bouncing as high as they were in England, and it's a lot tougher out there. So I wouldn't mind if it was the best looking match, but I just found a way to win."

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Results, schedule

All Newport

Singles

Men's (4) (1st Round) Arguello, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (1st Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (2nd Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (2nd Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (3rd Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (3rd Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (4th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (4th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (5th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (5th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (6th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (6th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (7th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (7th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (8th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (8th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (9th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (9th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (10th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (10th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (11th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (11th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (12th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (12th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (13th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (13th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (14th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (14th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (15th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (15th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (16th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (16th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (17th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (17th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (18th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (18th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (19th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (19th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (20th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (20th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (21st Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (21st Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (22nd Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (22nd Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (23rd Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (23rd Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (24th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (24th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (25th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (25th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (26th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (26th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (27th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (27th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (28th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (28th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (29th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (29th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (30th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (30th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (31st Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (31st Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (32nd Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (32nd Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (33rd Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (33rd Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (34th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (34th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (35th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (35th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Men's (4) (36th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

Women's (4) (36th Round) Isner, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4; Mahut, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4.

WEDNESDAY ON THE AIR

Pro Baseball

1 p.m. (MLB) Dodgers-Tigers
7 p.m. (WEEI) WEEI-FM WSAR WBSM White Sox-Red Sox
7 p.m. (WBZ) Cubs-Reds
7 p.m. (WPRV) Yankees-Indians
7 p.m. (WJLJ) WJLJ-WNPR PawSox-Columbus Clippers
8 p.m. (CEHP) Pirates-Cardinals

Soccer

4 p.m. (CEHP) World Cup semifinal, Netherlands-Australia

NBA Basketball

3 p.m. (NBA) Summer League, Pacers-Thunder
7 p.m. (NBA) Summer League, 76ers-Nets
7 p.m. (CEHP) NBA Summer League, Celtics-Pistons

Cycling

7:30 a.m. (NBCSN) Tour de France, Stage 5

Boxing

10 p.m. (FEL) Alfonso Gomez-Ed Paredes, from Liza Vegas

Radio Dials

WASH (104.0), WABL (132.0), WBQ (123.0), WBZ (98.5), WCXN (105.0), WBSM (102.0), WEEI-FM (97.3), WEEI (103.7), WJLJ (102.0), WKW (145.0), WJLJ (140.0), WNRI (138.0), WOOD (124.0), WPRO (103.0), WPRV (79.0), WQRI-FM (88.3), WRU-FM (90.3), WSAR (480.0), WBBF-FM (101.5), WJLJ-FM (100.7)

GOLF

R.I. AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

At Montauk CC, Portsmouth

Second-round results

(Top 25 qualify for match play)

Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Arguello (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Mahut (6-3, 7-6, 6-4), Isner (6-3, 7-6, 6-4)

Isner (6-3, 7-6,

GOLF | R.I. AMATEUR

While favorites advance, some quality players lurk

By KEVIN MCNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

PORTSMOUTH — It's no surprise that Brad Valois and Bobby Leopold advanced to the quarterfinal round of the 109th Rhode Island State Amateur on Wednesday at Montauk Country Club. The same, however, can't be said for some of the other survivors.

Valois and Leopold have been two of the dominant amateur golfers in the state for the last decade. Both own state amateur titles and judging by their play thus far this week are primed to secure more hardware. But in order to do so, they'll have to get by a few others who'd love to win a championship.

Valois won his two matches with just two bogeys on the day. Leopold was even better. He didn't make a single bogey, pouring in six birdies in a tough first-match win over Eric Marchetti, and then added four more in an afternoon win over Patrick Welch.

The "problem" is they do not sit on opposite ends of the tournament bracket. Valois, the defending champion, faces Chris DeLucia in a quarterfinal match on Thursday morning. Leopold matches up with Dave Nuttall, the tourney's Giant Killer after he upset Charlie Blanchard in 21 holes and then beat Ben Tuthill, 4 and 3. If the favorites survive, they'll play a marquee semifinal match against each other in the afternoon.

The other side of the bracket appears wide open after Rick Audette of Metacommet took care of one of the trimedialists, Jamison Randall, 2 and 1. Audette will face ex-URI player Andrew Fiorenzano, and steady veteran Rob Grossguth is matched up against recent Portsmouth High grad Jake Bauer in another quarterfinal match.

Valois is a fierce competitor who thrives in match play and is clearly unflappable. Just minutes before his morning match with Gerald Santos, the lefty hadn't been spotted near the first tee. He was

Results, pairings

Round of 32 results

Jamison Randall, Alpine CC (1) def. Kyle Hoffman, Pawtucket CC (32), 2 and 1
Rick Audette Jr., Metacommet CC (16) def. Ryan Pelletier, Pawtucket CC (17), 4 and 2
Mike Hamilton, Kirkbrae CC (8) def. Paul Quigley, Swansea CC (25), 3 and 2
Andrew Fiorenzano, Metacommet CC (5) def. Owen Lynch, Wannamoisett CC (24), 1 up
Rob Grossguth, West Warwick CC (4) def. Bruce Heterick, Cranston CC (29), 3 and 2
Tom McCormick, Kirkbrae CC (11) def. Noah Kowal, Ledgement CC (26), 5 and 4
McKinley Slade, Wannamoisett CC (5) def. Don Wright, West Warwick CC (28), 5 and 3
Jake Bauer, Green Valley CC (12) def. Jonathan Drumm, Valley CC (21), 4 and 3
Bobby Leopold, Wannamoisett CC (2) def. Eric Marchetti, Metacommet CC (31), 3 and 2
Patrick Welch, Metacommet CC (15) def. Jamie Griffiths, Wannamoisett CC (18), 2 and 1
Ben Tuthill, Wannamoisett CC (7) def. Will Hall, Wannamoisett G&CC (26), 1 up
Dave Nuttall Jr., Metacommet CC (23) def. Charlie Blanchard, Wannamoisett CC (16), 21 holes
Brad Valois, Metacommet CC (3) def. Gerald Santos, Montauk CC (26), 3 and 2
Brendan Lemp, The Misquamicut Club (14) def. Matthew Occhi, Green Valley CC (19), 6 and 5
Dr. George Pine, Valley CC (6) def. Matthew Corio, Wannamoisett CC (27), 2 and 1
Christopher DeLucia, Foster CC (11) def. Eric Ahlberg, Warwick CC (22), 7 and 5

Round of 16 results

Rick Audette Jr., Metacommet CC (16) def. Jamison Randall, Alpine CC (1), 2 and 1
Andrew Fiorenzano, Metacommet CC (5) def. Mike Hamilton, Kirkbrae CC (8), 2 and 1
Rob Grossguth, West Warwick CC (4) def. Tom McCormick, Kirkbrae CC (11), 1 up
Jake Bauer, Green Valley CC (12) def. McKinley Slade, Wannamoisett CC (5), 5 and 3
Bobby Leopold, Wannamoisett CC (2) def. Patrick Welch, Metacommet CC (15), 5 and 3
Dave Nuttall Jr., Metacommet CC (23) def. Ben Tuthill, Wannamoisett CC (7), 4 and 3
Brad Valois, Metacommet CC (3) def. Brendan Lemp, The Misquamicut Club (14), 4 and 2
Christopher DeLucia, Foster CC (11) def. Dr. George Pine, Valley CC (6), 1 and 2

THURSDAY'S MATCHES

Quarterfinals

7:30 a.m.: Rick Audette Jr., Metacommet CC vs. Andrew Fiorenzano, Metacommet CC
7:39 a.m.: Rob Grossguth, West Warwick CC vs. Jake Bauer, Green Valley CC
7:48 a.m.: Bobby Leopold, Wannamoisett CC vs. Dave Nuttall Jr., Metacommet CC
7:57 a.m.: Brad Valois, Metacommet CC vs. Christopher DeLucia, Foster CC

on the putting green and thought his starting time was 15 minutes later. But after he scooped up his balls and packed away his putter, Valois reported to the tee just in time and promptly birdied the first hole.

He recorded his only bogey of the match at the fifth and Santos squared the match with birds at the 10th and 11th holes. But Valois kept his cool, regaining the lead with a par at No. 12. He went on to win, 3 and 2.

In an afternoon match against Misquamicut's Brendan Lemp, Valois birdied the sixth and seventh holes to grab a 2-up lead and never looked back. His only bogey

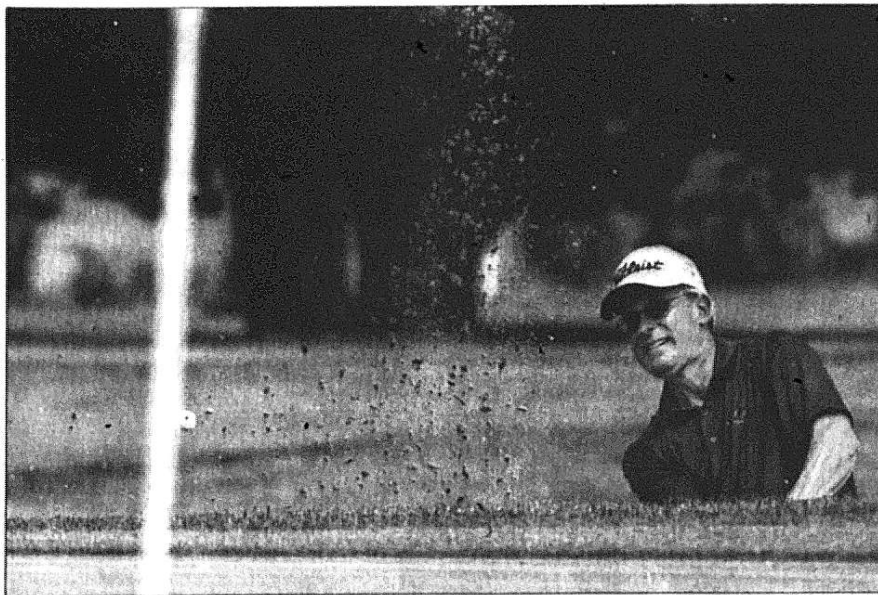
came at the 15th hole but by then he was well on his way to a 4 and 2 victory.

"I'm getting there," said Valois. "I hit my irons well today and that's helped a lot. I'm hitting my driver everywhere. If you can hit the driver well and hit good pitches, you're in good shape."

Valois will face DeLucia, a talented former University of Connecticut player. DeLucia birdied the first five holes to win a morning match over Eric Ahlberg, then birdied four of the first five again in the afternoon to jump all over Dr. George Pine. Pine cut a four-hole deficit to two, but DeLucia won, 3 and 2.

Leopold will face Nuttall, one of four surviving Metacommet members who survived the day's best match. He and Blanchard staged a doozy, exchanging the lead four times with no more than a one-hole lead all morning. Blanchard birdied the par-5 16th hole to grab a one-hole lead, but Nuttall stuffed his approach at the 300-yard 18th hole and made the clutch birdie putt to force extra holes. After matching pars and then bogeys at the first two extra holes, Nuttall won the match with a par at the 220-yard third hole.

The Metacommet connection is a strong one at the tournament. Audette is a club champion and, more importantly, a new father after his wife, Meagan, gave birth to Richard III seven weeks ago. The new dad birdied the first three holes to jump ahead of Randall, but the match was even at the turn. Audette birdied No. 10 to regain the lead, but Randall grabbed his first lead of the match after winning the 11th and 12th holes. Audette didn't buckle. He won the 14th with a par and when Randall's drives at the 15th and 17th went astray, Audette punched his ticket into the quarterfinals.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL/BOB BREIDENBACH

Rob Grossguth hits out of a sand trap on the 10th hole during his semifinal match against Andrew Fiorenzano at the Rhode Island State Amateur golf tournament Thursday in Portsmouth.

Ex-champ earns shot at title

Bobby Leopold, who won the tournament in 2009, will face Andrew Fiorenzano over 36 holes in Friday's final round

By KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

PORTSMOUTH — When Bobby Leopold won the Rhode Island State Amateur golf title in his first try in 2009, he had every reason to believe he could pile up his share of hardware in the event.

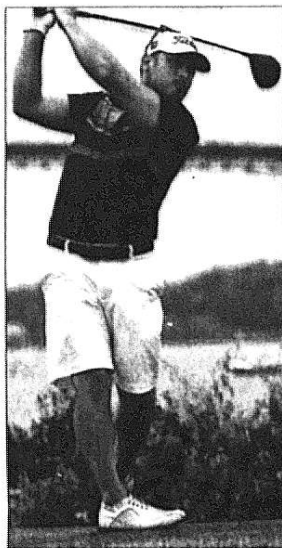
That has not happened, in large part to some stiff competition in the semifinal round of the state's most prestigious golf event. Another serious roadblock parked himself in Leopold's path in Thursday's semifinals, but this time the Wannamoisett member dug out of a three-hole deficit and rallied late for a 3 and 1 win over defending champion Brad Valois.

Leopold, who was born in the United States, grew up in England and now lives in Coventry, will face Cranston's Andrew Fiorenzano in the finals. He just completed a college career at the University of Rhode Island but is enjoying the highlight of his golf career this week on Montaup Country Club. The 22-year-old found a way past steady West Warwick veteran Rob Grossguth on the way to a 2-up victory in the semifinal round.

Leopold and Fiorenzano will play a 36-hole match on Friday morning, starting at 7:30 a.m.

"I haven't been back to the finals since I won in '09, so it feels good," Leopold said. "That was my first year playing so I didn't think anything of it. I've gotten beat in the semifinals a few times now by some good players, so it's good to be back."

Leopold won his morning quarterfinal match over Metacomet's Dave Nuttall, but it wasn't easy. He never trailed, but Nuttall—who had beaten two former State Am champs on Wednesday—had the match even after eight holes and



THE JOURNAL/BOB BREIDENBACH

Brad Valois hits a drive on the 11th in his match against Bobby Leopold Thursday. Leopold rallied from a three-hole deficit for the win.

then kept plugging along. When Leopold bogeyed the 16th, his lead was down to one hole. Both players made pars at 17, but Nuttall hooked his drive at the 18th hole out of bounds into a cart staging area to end the threat.

Fiorenzano's morning match with Rick Audette could have taken place on a Saturday morning at Metacomet. Audette is the club's champ, while Fiorenzano is a junior member. The two were all square through 11 holes, but Fiorenzano won the next two holes with a par and a birdie to take control. A double bogey at the 16th hole cut his lead to one but he matched Audette's pars at the last two holes to move onto the afternoon.

Both semifinal matches resembled close boxing bouts with the players eagerly waiting for someone to make the big mistake. Fiorenzano and Grossguth weren't separated by more than one hole until the final result. The match was all square through 14 holes when the youngster cracked first. At the 15th hole, his drive settled into a grove of trees left of the fairway. He hit out into more trouble and conceded the hole after Grossguth reached the par-4 in reg-

ulation.

But he didn't flinch at the deficit. Fiorenzano won the 16th hole with a birdie and then when Grossguth three-putted from 22 feet at the difficult 17th green, Fiorenzano had the lead. He went to the 300-yard 18th hole thinking aggressively and pounded his driver to 10 yards off the apron of the green.

"I've been hitting driver there all week and I was expecting (Grossguth) to make a birdie so I felt I had to make a birdie," he said.

Grossguth's second shot settled 12 feet above the pin and when his tricky downhill putt missed, Fiorenzano had cashed his ticket to the finals. He says his experience playing high end collegiate golf with Rhody has paid off this week.

"In college you play 36 holes a day all the time," he said, "so that's helped me. It's a lot of competition so you learn a lot about yourself and you have to deal with the ebbs and flows of golf."

Leopold's match with Valois may not have been the birdie-shoot that many observers expected but it was exciting. Valois birdied the first hole to take a quick lead and when Leopold missed a four-footer for par at the third hole and then pulled hooked a wood to the green at the par-5 fifth, the defending champ held a three hole lead after five holes.

But Valois missed a few chances to put the hammer down. Leopold made a birdie at the par-5 seventh and stayed two down when Valois missed a seven footer for birdie at the 8th. Valois bogeyed the 9th and then conceded a three-foot Leopold putt for bird at the 11th to square the match. Valois stuffed his tee shot at the par-3 12th but missed a five-footer. The players stood on the 15th tee all tied up but Leopold quickly changed that when he dropped his approach to three feet and made a birdie for his first lead of the match.

Valois then made the match's key mistake when he pushed his drive at the par-5 16th hole far right and out of bounds. Now down two and needing a minor miracle, Valois came up short on his approach at 17 and didn't get up-and-down for a par.

Leopold will certainly rate as the favorite in the championship match, as Fiorenzano readily admitted. But he'll be ready to battle.

"I'm going to have my hands full," Fiorenzano said, "but I know that I haven't played my best golf yet."

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Results, final pairing

Quarterfinals
Andrew Fiorenzano, Metacomet, def. Rick Audette Jr., Metacomet, 1 up.
Rob Grossguth, West Warwick, def. Jake Bauer, Green Valley, 1 up.
Bobby Leopold, Wannamoisett, def. Dave Nuttall Jr., Metacomet, 2 up.
Brad Valois, Metacomet, def. Christopher DeLuca, Foster, 2 and 1.

Semifinals
Fiorenzano def. Grossguth, 2 up.
Leopold def. Valois, 1 and 1.

Championship Friday
7:30 a.m. — Fiorenzano vs. Leopold.

SPORTS Journal

Journal | providencejournal.com

Saturday, July 12, 2014

Leopold on the upswing with second R.I. Amateur title



Jim Donaldson

PORTSMOUTH — Bobby Leopold has a sweet swing and an even better accent.

British-born, he talks like an announcer for the BBC and plays golf like a member of the PGA.

It was golf that brought him to America, but love that brought him to Rhode Island.

A native of Farnham, England, which is in

Surrey, about 45 minutes southwest of London, Leopold came to the United States to play for Rollins College.

That's where he met Taylor Cooke.

"It was the first day of school," Leopold said.

They're married now and have a 19-month-old son, Grayson, who toddled along beside his mother on Friday afternoon as Leopold won his second Rhode Island Amateur championship, beating 22-year-old Andrew Fiorenzano, 4 and 2, at scenic Montaup Country Club.

Leopold, 29, won his first Amateur title at Crestwood, in 2009.

"Winning this one is way better," he said.

SEE DONALDSON, C5



Bobby Leopold lets a drive fly in Friday morning's round at Montaup Country Club in Portsmouth. He came away with his second R.I. Amateur championship, despite some excitement later in the day.

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Andrew Fiorenzano hits a long ball on the sixth tee Friday at Montaup Country Club. He trailed the more seasoned Bobby Leopold, but made things interesting with several birdies on the back nine.

DONALDSON Continued from C1

Leopold grinds out a win over Fiorenzano

"because I know what it means now. I was a kid then. I didn't have any expectations."

He's been a perennial favorite since then, along with Brad Valois, who won in 2011 and '13, and Charlie Blanchard (2012).

"People want to play us," Leopold, standing by the 16th green, with the Mount Hope Bridge in the background, said after beating Fiorenzano. "They want to beat us. That's nice, but it's hard."

Leopold battled past Valois in Thursday's semifinal, 3 and 1, and led almost all the way Friday against Fiorenzano.

The only time Leopold trailed in the 36-hole final was on the opening hole in the morning round, when he hit his drive out of bounds.

He evened the match with a birdie on the par-4 second hole and took the lead for good on the 17th.

Starting the afternoon round 1-up, Leopold took a commanding 4-up lead through 27 holes by winning the par-3 eighth with a par and the short, par-4 ninth with a birdie.

The match appeared all but over when Leopold came within inches of an eagle on the 398-yard, par-4 11th and was conceded his birdie.

But the gutsy Fiorenzano rolled in a 20-foot birdie putt to salvage a halve to remain 4-down and then won the par-3 12th with another birdie.

Both players birdied the par-5 13th, and it was a testing, 6-foot putt for par — and a halve — on the par-3

14th that all but clinched the match for Leopold.

"That putt was the biggest I had all day," Leopold said. "I was fighting my putter today. I'd putted well all week, but it abandoned me today. It was a grind all the way."

Fiorenzano knew the more seasoned Leopold would be tough to beat.

"He's not going to beat himself," Fiorenzano said. "I knew that."

"We both played some good golf on the back nine. It was exciting. But he was the better player today."

Leopold keeps getting better and better, in large part because of the help of his father-in-law, Scott Cooke, who teamed with Scott Teller to win the State Four-Ball in 1975.

On Friday, Cooke worked for Leopold, as his caddy, as he often does. The rest of the time, Leopold works for his father-in-law, in the Barton Insurance Agency.

Leopold actually made a quick stop in the office late Thursday afternoon after posting wins over Dave Nuttall Jr. in the quarterfinals and then Valois.

"I didn't do any work, though," he said, smiling. "Just sent a few emails."

Leopold works hard in the winter so that he has time for golf in the warm weather.

"Insurance is a hard business," he said. "It's like golf. When you start out, you want to quit. But as you work at it, it gets better."

Both Leopold and Fiorenzano, who just finished his senior season at URI, are only going to get better.



Bobby Leopold beat Fiorenzano, 4 and 2, adding another Rhode Island Amateur title to the one he won at Crestwood in 2009.

"His swing," Cooke said of his son-in-law, "is a work in progress. It keeps getting better and better. His ball striking today was superior. He has such control over his irons."

"It's fun seeing how much he's progressed. He was a mediocre college player. But he's become an elite mid-amateur player."

Leopold, who on Tuesday will play in the sectional qualifying tournament for the U.S. Amateur at Kirkbrae, in Lincoln, has made it

to match play in both the U.S. Amateur and the U.S. Mid-Amateur.

And, now, he's a two-time Rhode Island Amateur champion.

"We're really proud of him," Cooke said.

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