

# Better Ball: Richards, Maurer win

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Shoot bogey-free 15-under to win the Lanco Better Ball

It was a Sunday afternoon filled with the sound of the ball whistling past swaying trees while the sun beat down heavily on the golfers at Tanglewood Manor Golf Course.



*PATRICK BLAIN | LNP CORRESPONDENT* **Matthew Maurer, left, and Dave Richards cross the bridge along the fairway on the 18th hole at Tanglewood Manor Golf Course during Sunday's final round of the Lanco Stadel Volvo Better Ball Tournament. The duo won the event by one stroke over the team of Craig Hornberger and Mike Burkhart.**

It might have been a beautiful day for golf, but it was not the day the Aaron Fricke and Andy Zook, the defending champions of the Lanco Stadel Volvo Better Ball Championship, were looking for.

Instead, it was Matt Maurer and Dave Richards who the 2016 title by one stroke when Maurer sunk a lengthy putt on the 18th green.

"Figured I had to make it," Maurer said of his tournament-winning putt. "Thankfully it went in the center cup."

Richards and Maurer won by a single stroke over Craig Hornberger and Mike Burkhart.

The winners carded a 15-under 129. Hornberger and Burkhart were alone in second, while two teams — Zook/Fricke and Corey Wenger/Garret Barbush — tied for third with a 13-under 131.

The winners did not fully realize they were in the lead at the time of walking to their balls on 18.



*PATRICK BLAIN | LNP CORRESPONDENT PHOTOS* **Above, Matthew Maurer sinks this putt for birdie on the green at the 18th hole to win the Lanco Better Ball Championship Sunday at Tanglewood Manor. Below, Dave Richards reacts following his tee shot from the 14th hole. The duo shot 129 to win the two-day event.**

“I told Doc on the 18th fairway that if we make a four here we end it,” Maurer said of their nose-in-their-own -business mentality, which they had all day.

The duo started out a little slow, only going 2-under on the front nine, but they caught fire on the back nine.

“Ten was the turning point because I hit into the water there, which woke me up,” Maurer said.

On the back nine, they got birdies on 11, 12, 15, 16, and, of course, 18 to seal the deal. They shot bogey-free rounds both days.

“We were never in danger (of a bogey),” Richards said of their rounds. “First event without a bogey. I am proud of that”

The defending champions started out hot, with birdies on their first two holes. But Zook and Fricke then cooled off a bit, shooting a 2-under on the front nine that included a bogey. They hung

around, though, as Fricke made a gorgeous eagle putt on 12 to pull the twosome ahead for the moment.

“The bogeys on 7 and 13 — that hurt us,” Fricke said.

Hornberger and Burkhart stayed in the hunt all day Sunday, finishing second.

“Mike carried us yesterday,” Hornberger said of their final round. “We ham-and-egged it today.”

The ham-and-egged term came up with the winners, as well, with Maurer saying that is what it takes in better ball.

The top three finishers plan on playing at the same event next year at Highlands of Donegal Golf Course.



“Absolutely, we will be back next year,” Maurer said. “We hope to compete and win.”