

Fieger wins in playoff

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Chris Fieger and Terry Hertzog needed 23 holes to determine a champion on a sweltering Friday



PATRICK BLAIN | LNP CORRESPONDENT **Chris Fieger approaches the green at the 18th hole at Meadia Heights Golf Club on Friday. Fieger won the 2016 Lanco Open in a playoff.**

If this isn't working, I'll try this.

Really, it's an endless mental/physical battle.

How many more of those adjustments work than don't? Probably a lot.

Chris Fieger changed his grip on his putter just a little bit recently. That simple adjustment paid off in a big way Friday when his 22-foot birdie putt on the fifth playoff hole enabled him to win the Lanco Lancaster Toyota Open on a hot day at Meadia Heights.

Fieger, who also captured the Lanco Senior Championship earlier this summer, shot a 2-under 69 for the regu-

lation 18 holes, as did Terry Hertzog and Connor Sheehan.

All three went to a three-hole aggregate playoff using Nos. 10, 17 and 18. Sheehan, the defending Lanco Open

champion, bowed when he made bogey on the third playoff hole.

Onto sudden death where Fieger and Hertzog both made par on No. 10, the fourth play-off hole, and both were down the middle with their first two shots on the par-5 17th, the fifth playoff hole.



PATRICK BLAIN | LNP CORRESPONDENT **Terry Hertzog chips out of the bunker on the 17th hole at the Lanco Open on Friday at Meadia Heights Golf Club.**

Fieger hit his approach shot, leaving a 22-foot putt. Hertzog hit his wedge to within nine feet.

After Fieger rolled in his birdie putt, Hertzog slid his by on the right, giving Fieger the tournament.

“The putt was pretty straight,” Fieger said. “It was coming up the hill so I just had to make sure I got it there because I knew that Terry had a real good shot at making it, too.”

While the putt on the 17th hole won him the tournament, his up and down on the third playoff hole — the par-3 18th — enabled him to be in a position to win it.

His tee shot on 18 went left, leaving him with a chip over a bunker to the green.

“I was trying to hit a hard hook into the green and I just came over the top (of the ball),” he said.

The chip shot set up a 20-foot putt for par. He made that putt, too, to stay alive.

The trail of Fieger’s putting prowess continued from his play on the regulation 18 holes.

He made a 45-footer for birdie on 18 just to get to 69, which got him into the playoff. He also made birdie on No. 16 to also put him in position to reach the playoff.

And the sweltering weather? No problem for Fieger, who has experienced a bulging disc in his back recently. The heat kept his back from stiffening.

Hertzog, a teaching pro at Country Club of York, has won the Open three times but not since 1993. He finished tied for fourth with a 68 at Crossgates two years ago.

Hertzog made six birdies during his round, three on the front and three on the back. He followed a bogey on 17 with a birdie on 18 rolling in a 26-foot putt.

"You play a bad hole and it fires you up a little bit," Hertzog said. "Especially when you hit five bad shots in a row. My game wasn't quite there but I was able to score OK."

Sheehan came into the tournament after failing qualify for the Pennsylvania Open Wednesday at the Country Club of Harrisburg. He shot 80 that day at a course he had never seen before.

"I hadn't played in a while and I wasn't where I needed to be that day," he said. "But I hoped it would get me in shape for this tournament."

You could say it did. Sheehan holed out for an eagle on the par-4 fifth hole, hitting his sand wedge from 50 yards. He made four birdies after that.

"I didn't play great, but I played well," he said.

Sheehan missed his par putt coming back on the third playoff hole (No. 18) to fall out of the playoff but might be kicking himself today after just missing a birdie putt of makeable length on the second playoff hole at No. 17, a hole that saw him bomb his tee shot down the right side of the fairway.

David Denlinger, the 2011 Open winner, and Brandon Detweiler, the 2009 Lanco Amateur winner, tied for fourth with even-par 71s.

Five players tied for sixth with 73s, including three-time winner Ken Phillips.

Notes: The field for the tournament was 66 players, an increase of 18 over last year's entrants. Volunteers Fred Rudy (a USGA official), Carol Lefever, Wendy Phillips and Jim and Amy Swartz helped the tournament run smoothly.