

Sunday News – 08/05/12

Drescher wins amateur finale

After capturing the Lanco match play title the 23-year-old said he is turning pro.

By Mike Gross, Assistant Sports Editor mgross@lnpnews.com

The match, and Zak Drescher's amateur golf career, ended in a patch of long, weedy grass at the Highlands of Donegal Saturday.

When Craig Hornberger and several onlookers couldn't find Hornberger's ball in the long stuff to the right of the 17th fairway, he conceded the hole and the Lanco Brent L. Miller Match Play title to Drescher, 3 and 2.

After the match Drescher, 23, announced that he is turning pro. His play-for-pay debut will come at the Pennsylvania Open, Aug. 13-15 at Nemocolin Woodlands Resort.

He plans to play the e-Golf tour, which holds events mostly in North Carolina, plus occasional Monday qualifiers for Web.com (formerly Nationwide) Tour events, for the rest of the year.

If it is indeed over, Drescher's amateur career ranks among the best locally. He's won four of the last five Lanco Amateurs, two Lanco Opens, one Lanco Better-Ball and two Lanco Junior titles, all since 2006.

He won the match play, only in its fourth year, on his first try.

His duel with Brandon Detweiler (now a pro) in the '08 Amateur at Bent Creek, in which Detweiler shot 28 on the back nine and 63 in the final round only to see Drescher birdie the last two holes of regulation and then prevail in a playoff, was as good as local golf gets.

Both Hornberger and Drescher dominated the Highlands' 6,649 yard, par-70 layout Saturday, shooting roughly five-under-par in winning semifinals Saturday morning, Drescher defeating Marlin Detweiler 3 & 1, and Hornberger beating Jeff Janeski 5 & 4.

Hornberger, just 17 and a senior-to-be at Manheim Township, wasn't bad in the final, either. He missed some chances, notably on the short par-4 15th. He drove perfectly there, had only about a 70-yard approach, but left the pitch 15-20 feet short and narrowly missed the putt.

"I felt confident over that [pitch], and I thought I made the putt," Hornberger said. "That was definitely an opening."

The hole was halved with pars, leaving Drescher two up with three left, which was all the daylight he needed. He shot roughly three under in the final, an oddly anticlimatic affair conducted under gloomy skies with very few spectators, just a couple of guys sharing a cart and playing a little routine golf.

Except that having to search for golf balls is never much fun.

"I hated for it to end that way," said Drescher, who had played with Hornberger for the first time Wednesday, in the final round of the Pennsylvania Amateur at Rolling Green Golf Club in Springfield.

Drescher finished tied for 23rd there, Hornberger tied for 30th.

"He's got a lot of game," Drescher said. "Very impressive."

Hornberger was less impressed with himself.

"[Drescher] doesn't make a lot of mistakes; it was more poor play on my part," he said. "That's golf."

Hornberger also reached the final in last year's match play, where he lost to Corey Gast, one down in 19 holes at Bent Creek.

He has an American Junior Golf Association event this week at Huntingdon Valley near Philadelphia. That's about it until high school golf begins again in a couple weeks. He's received recruiting interest from Baylor, South Alabama and Drescher's alma mater, Campbell.

Intelligencer Journal – 08/04/12

GOLF

Drescher advances in Match Play tourney

Top-seeded Zak Drescher was one of four players to advance through the first two rounds of the Lanco Brent L. Miller Match Play Championship Friday at Highlands of Donegal.

Also advancing to today's semifinals were No. 3 seed Craig Hornberger, No. 10 seed Jerry Janeski and 13th-seeded Marlin Detweiler.

The semifinals begin at 7:30 a.m., with Drescher meeting Detweiler and Janeski facing Hornberger. The winners advance to the final, which will start at approximately 12:30 p.m.

After knocking off No. 16 seed Mike Sugden (5 and 4) in Friday morning's Round of 16, Drescher earned a 4 and 3 victory over Robby Rowe in the afternoon quarterfinals.

Detweiler got to the semifinals with wins over Matt Burkhart (19 holes) and Mike Turner (1 up), while Hornberger advanced with a forfeit win over Trevor Pope and a 2 and 1 victory over Mike Burkhart.

After edging Chris Fieger in 22 holes in Friday's Round of 16, Janeski pulled off the upset of the tournament in the quarterfinals, where he outlasted No. 2 seed Gregg Hostetter, 1 up.