

# Intelligencer Journal – 07/23/13

## Harbold wins Lanco Open

*nCaptures second crown with strong start and fires 4-under 66 at Conestoga Country Club. Hertzog takes second with 68 and Texter finishes third at 69.*

BY JASON FULGINITI, Sports Writer

Rusty Harbold knew something good was happening.

More important was that, after all these years, he knew how to handle it.

"If it were 10 years ago I'd be stressed out about being under (par in a tournament)," said Harbold, a 31-year-old assistant professional at Lancaster Country Club. "I still get nervous ... just not as much as I used to. I feel like I deal with it better than I used to. And I think that's just a maturity thing."

Holding his nerves in check down the stretch to post 4-under 66 Monday afternoon at Conestoga Country Club, Harbold won the Lanco Kelly Cadillac Open by two shots over Country Club of York professional Terry Hertzog.

Professional Jarred Texter, who posted the only other sub-par round of the day with 1-under 69, finished alone in third.

It was the second Lanco Open title in the last four years for Harbold, who also won the event at Overlook in 2010.

"Winning it before ... I think it's more of a comfort thing," Harbold said afterward. "I'm a little more confident out there, and more comfortable, and that definitely makes a world of difference."

It certainly did Monday, when Harbold played his first 12 holes in 4-under.

But it was right about then that he knew he was onto something.

"After I felt like I had a shot to maybe win ... It's not so much the mind is racing, it's just that in the back of my head I know I'm playing well and I'm in position to win this thing," Harbold said.

"And then you just kind of start tightening up a little bit and you lose your rhythm."

The key, Harbold said, is not to lose a handle on the round, which he was determined not to do Monday.

Fact is, after draining a 15-foot birdie putt on the par-4 12th, Harbold didn't hit another green until No. 18.

Still, he managed to avoid a single bogey on the closing six holes, thanks in no small part to a short game that manufactured a handful of clutch par saves.

After draining a 35-footer to salvage par at the par-4 13th, Harbold made a pair of quality up and downs from off the greens at Nos. 14 and 16 to keep himself at 4-under.

"I just started getting a little nervous and couldn't hit fairways," Harbold explained. "So I was just trying to put it up around the green (with approach shots). And luckily my chipping and putting was good.

"It wasn't pretty," he added with a smile, "but I was making pars."

Fact is, Harbold nearly got to 5-under after sticking a brilliant approach shot from the right rough within six feet of the hole, but missed his ensuing birdie putt on the left side.

"I wanted to make (that putt) just in case," Harbold said. "There were definitely a lot of good players in the field. So I thought if I could make that last one and get in the house with a 65, I felt like I was in pretty good shape."

In hindsight, Harbold might have suspected his chances of winning Monday were in pretty good shape from the very beginning.

After leaving a chip with his third shot short of the green at the par-5 first hole, Harbold holed his ensuing chip for his first birdie of the day.

The good fortunes continued at the par-3 second, where Harbold, aiming for the left side of the green, pushed his approach shot, only to have it land six feet from the pin to set up another birdie.

Another bird at the par-3 fifth (7-iron to 15 feet) left him 3-under at the turn.

"My first nine holes I hit the ball really solid," Harbold said. "I gave myself a lot of good birdie putts and was lucky enough to make (some) of them."

A two-putt for birdie from the left fringe at the par-5 10th took Harbold to 4-under, before he carded his lone bogey of the day at the par-3 11th, where he failed to get up and down.

He responded with another birdie at 12.

"And after that," Harbold said with a laugh, "it was scrambling mode."

A situation Harbold was obviously equipped to handle, thanks to the things he's learned over the years -- about golf, and himself.

"I know I can keep a round together out there as long as I just keep my head on straight," Harbold said. "Just don't make the big numbers or the big mistakes that can kind of kill a (good) round.

"And the more I play, the more I compete and the more I get in that position, the easier it is."

## **Intelligencer Journal – 07/22/13**

### **Field is balanced, competitive Event now a 1-day, 18-hole shootout Field is balanced, competitive**

*Lanco Open*

BY JASON FULGINITI, Sports Writer  
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For more than 50 years, the Lanco Amateur was -- and, for now, still is -- the most prestigious, sought-after event on the Lanco golf circuit.

Slowly but surely, that could be changing.

It started in 2003, when Jarred Texter, a 17-year-old senior-to-be at Penn Manor, throttled the field with an incomprehensible two-day total of 63-68--131 to win the Lanco Amateur by eight shots at Crossgates Golf Club.

And with that, a new era was born in local golf circles, where youth -- not age-old experience -- was king.

Fact is, until 25-year-old Brixton Albert's victory last month at Pilgrim's Oak, no one over the age of 23 had won the Lanco Amateur in 10 years.

In addition to Texter's victories in 2003, '06 and '07, other champions during that decade-long stretch were Shawn Hall (2004), Dan Walters (2005), Brandon Detweiler (2009) and Zak Drescher, who won four Lanco Ams in a five-year span from 2008-2012, including three straight from 2010-2012.

The good news for a slew of middle-aged guys with designs on capturing the county's biggest event is that all of the above have since turned professional.

The bad news is that the county's other major championship -- the Lanco Open -- has suddenly become even harder to win.

While on different career paths these days, Drescher and Texter are two of the notable names that will reappear on the local golf map today, when the Lanco Kelly Cadillac Open gets underway at 8 a.m. at Conestoga Country Club.

Unlike the last seven years, when it was a 36-hole tournament played over two days, this year's event will be a one-day, 18-hole shootout.

A quick look at the names in today's 81-player field suggests it should be a good one.

"I'm just going to go out there and have a good time tomorrow," said Drescher, who tees off today at 9:40 a.m.

Fact is, today's homecoming brings a welcomed relief for Drescher -- the 2007 and 2009 Lanco Open winner -- who has spent the past year playing mostly on the NGA Golf Tour (formerly the Hooters Tour) in the Carolinas, after turning pro at the end of last summer.

The 24-year-old Hempfield High School and Campbell University grad said he's done "all right in a few tournaments" to this point in his pro career, including a tie for fourth in an NGA Winter Series event back in January and a sixth-place finish at a tournament in early May.

Drescher also got through local qualifying for the U.S. Open in May before being eliminated in sectionals.

Meanwhile, the touring days of Texter -- once the third-ranked junior in the country and a former standout player at UNLV -- are apparently over.

After several years of trying to make it as a professional, Texter -- who tees off in today's first pairing at 8 a.m. -- decided to stop "chasing the dream" in April.

The soon-to-be-married, 27-year-old has since taken a job as a salesman at Lancaster Harley Davidson and plans to apply for his amateur status following this summer.

"I love golf and it's always going to be a part of my life," he said. "I think I just sort of realized it wasn't in my heart anymore to continue to try and do it (professionally)."

Which isn't to say Texter, who has logged just three and a half rounds this summer, by his own estimation, can't still get it done.

He barely missed the cut in local U.S. Open qualifying in May.

Still, for both Drescher and Texter, dominating the Lanco scene doesn't figure to be as easy as it once was, even without Albert -- the defending champion and the winner of the last two Lanco majors -- on hand to defend his title today.

Also in the field are a couple of guys in their mid-20s who used to push Texter during his high school days -- professional Andrew Turner (8:10), who won a local U.S. Open qualifier at Colonial Country Club in Harrisburg in May, and amateur Gregg Hostetter (9:40).

Albert outdueled Hostetter and Turner at last year's Lanco Open at Foxchase Golf Club, where he shot 66-69--135 to win by one over Hostetter and by three over Turner and David Denlinger (12:10 p.m.), who is also back in the field.

Hostetter might be the hottest player going into today's event, judging by his final round at last week's Lanco Better Ball, where he was 11-under through 13 holes on his own ball.

But Hostetter was ultimately overshadowed that day by a winning team that included Andy Zook, who will play in today's 12:10 p.m. pairing with Conor Gilbert, a 20-year-old Conestoga Valley graduate and Millersville University golf team member, who finished second to Albert at last month's Lanco Am.

Others to watch are recent Manheim Township High School grad Craig Hornberger (9:40), who contended at one of the world's biggest junior events at the Rolex Tournament of Champions two weeks ago at Lancaster Country Club; 2010 Lanco Open champion Rusty Harbold (11:20), a professional from LCC; 1997 and 2005 Lanco Open champ Brian Groff (10:50); and, of course, eight-time Lanco Amateur winner King Knox (11:00), who, at age 70, is still seeking his first Lanco Open title.