

York lets lead slip away in War of Roses golf tournament

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LANCASTER -- It seemed like the York team was well on its way to another victory in the War of the Roses tournament against rival Lancaster heading into Sunday at Fox Chase Golf Course in Stevens, Lancaster County.

With a 71/2-41/2 lead heading into the event's final day, the White Rose contingent only needed to capture five points to maintain the title in the Ryder Cup-style, match-play tournament.

The Red Rose side, however, wasn't about to throw in the towel. Lancaster staged a serious comeback, winning nine of a possible 12 points in Sunday's head-to-head singles matches.

As a result, the Yorkers traveled back across the Susquehanna River without the trophy after falling, 131/2-101/2.

"It was reminiscent of the European comeback in the Ryder Cup a few years ago," said York co-captain Wayne Jacobs. "That definitely made it interesting today."

Perhaps the biggest shot of the day wasn't even recorded with a putter. Lancaster's Greg Hostetter rallied late to even up his match with Brett Berkheimer entering the final hole. The match came to an improbable conclusion when Hostetter holed out his approach shot on the par-4 for an eagle.

"He holed out from, oh, about 100 yards, 110 yards," Jacobs said. "We knew he came awfully close. It was a good shot, but they said it took one bounce and on the second bounce it went right in the hole. And at that time, that was very crucial."

The biggest difference between the

two sides Sunday could be deciphered from their play on and around the greens.

"The biggest letdown that we had today was the execution on the greens," Jacobs said. "That's basically where the war was lost ... on and around the greens. When you end up 131/2-101/2 you're only looking at two matches to make a swing. So when you're losing it on the greens it makes it tough to come back."

The York side built up a big lead in Saturday's better-ball and alternate-shot format. The duo of Jeff Poet and Steve Gekas won two points in the two events, the only pairing to do so.

It was much different Sunday. Only Isaiah Logue (3 & 1), Bobby Stiffer (2 & 1) and Mike Stackus (5 & 4) scored points for York.

"Stackus was stroking it like a pro out there today," Jacobs said of Stackus, who shot 5-under through his round. "He was playing good, like I knew that he could."

It was a nice showing for Logue, the reigning PIAA Class AA champion. The Fairfield senior earned a point Saturday with Stackus in the better-ball format before cruising to a victory over Craig Kliewer in match play.

"He played like a county amateur champion and a state champion," Jacobs said. "He's a worker, because he's basically self-taught and he's doing a great job."

The Red Roses won five of their 10 matches fairly decisively. Marlin Detwiler (3 & 2), Brixton Albert (5 & 4), Bunky Burgess (3 & 2), Judd Gemmill (3 & 2) and Andy Zook (2 & 1) scored victories without the need to play the final hole.

While the sting of defeat is tough to swallow for the York side, it should be comforting to know that the talk of the event starting an every-other-year format seems unlikely, for now. Both sides have been actively looking for someone to sponsor the annual event without success. Nevertheless, both sides seemed to have agreed to go another year before considering any changes.

Lancaster now holds a 13-6 edge in the annual event, which started in 1995. York, however, had won three of the previous War of the Roses, before this year's event.

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WAR OF THE ROSES RESULTS

Saturday: York 71/2, Lancaster 41/2.

Sunday: Lancaster 9, York 3.

Final total: Lancaster 131/2, York 101/2.

Sunday Results

Mike Stackus (Y) def. Derek McCarty, 5 & 4.

Bobby Stiffler (Y) def. Chance Miller, 2 & 1.

Isaiah Logue (Y) def. Craig Kliewer, 3 & 1.

Andy Tampos (L) def. John Lowder Jr., 1-up.

Bunky Burgess (L) def. Steve Goodley, 3 & 2.

Judd Gemmill (L) def. Bob Ruby, 3 & 2.

Corey Gast (L) def. Matt Henry, 1-up.

Brixton Albert (L) def. Dan Wolfe, 5 & 4.

Chris Fieger (L) def. Jeff Poet, 6 & 5.

Greg Hostetter (L) def. Brett Berkheimer, 1-up.

Andy Zook (L) def. Steve Gekas, 2 & 1.

Conor Lefever (L) def. T.J. Ostrom, 1-up.

Marlin Detwiler (L) def. Gary Stewart Jr., 3 & 2.

Intelligencer Journal/Lancaster New Era – 09/30/13

Lancaster storms back to defeat York

War of the Roses

BY DIANA PUGLIESE, Sports Writer
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In the past six years, there have only been two repeat War of the Roses champions.

On Sunday, the Lancaster team did its part to keep the streak intact, coming from behind to defeat York 13.5 to 10.5 in the tournament's 19th installment at Foxchase Golf Club.

This marks the 13th time Lancaster has won the competition, which pits 12 of Lancaster County's top amateur golfers against their counterparts from York in a two-day, Ryder Cup-style format.

"York played wonderful (Saturday) and had some really good matches, but the Lancaster guys came out (Sunday) and really played super," said Red Rose team captain Ken Phillips, who has played in 15 War of the Roses tournaments. "To win nine singles matches is a very good effort, and they were very close matches, too."

"Really, everybody played really well so it's a compliment to them and to Gary Sutton and Wayne Jacobs, their captain and co-captain, who did a great job," Phillips added. "King Knox, my co-captain, and I put some strategy together, but we didn't hit a shot. It was all those guys; we just basically sat back and watched."

Phillips and Knox watched Lancaster storm back for an improbable victory with strong individual play. Heading into Sunday down 7.5 to 4.5, Lancaster needed to win eight of 12 individual matches to be victorious. The Red Rose team captured nine decisions to close out the White Rose City.

Chris Fieger, the winner of the last two Lanco Mid-Amateurs and this year's Lanco Senior, earned the first points of the day by defeating York's Jeff Poet, 7 and 6. Things kept rolling from there as Brixton Albert claimed his second point of the tournament with a victory over York's Dan Wolfe before Greg Hostetter earned his second point in dramatic fashion.

Trading the lead the entire day, it all came down to the 18th hole for Hostetter and York's Brett Berkheimer.

With Berkheimer winning the 17th after Hostetter missed a short putt for birdie, the two-year defending Jake Gittlen Memorial tournament champion took his frustrations out on his second shot and hit a 70-yard chip shot that dropped in the hole to seal the victory.

"I was just trying to hit it as close as possible because I had no confidence in my putter coming into that," Hostetter joked. "I knew when I hit it, when it came off the club face, I knew it was the right distance, the right line and the spin was going to be good. I knew it would be at least within five feet, but to go in, that was just a lucky break and very fortunate it would happen at that time as well. It's a nice way to finish off a match."

Minutes later Lancaster's Connor Lefever, playing in his final amateur tournament, beat York's Gary Stewart Jr. and Marlin Detweiler birdied the 16th hole to give the Red Rose team its decisive eighth victory.

York kept things close with wins from Bob Stiffler, Isaiah Logue and New York state transplant Mike Stackus. Stiffler and partner Matt Henry won their better ball pairing Saturday, as did Stackus and Logue, who also scored two points in the Junior War of the Roses in August. But it was not enough to derail a determined Lancaster squad.

"I don't think at any point, and I didn't hear anybody say, 'boy, this is going to be difficult tomorrow,'" said Hostetter. "We actually felt OK with (Saturday's) results. We would have liked to have been on top, sure, but we knew with our singles record and the strength of our players that we felt that we could pull it off. It certainly didn't seem insurmountable."

Sunday News – 09/29/13

Lancaster trails in War of the Roses

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS,

After the opening day of competition in the annual War of the Roses, a team of Lancaster's top golfers have their work cut out for them.

Playing at Foxchase Golf Club in Denver, York emerged Saturday holding a 71-w-41-w lead over its cross-river foes.

York got off to a strong start in the alternate shot (foursomes) portion of the Ryder Cup-style event, winning four of the six matches.

Lancaster's two wins came as Jud Gemmill and Brixton Albert defeated Mike Stackus and Gary Stewart Sr., and the team of Gregg Hostetter and Connor Lefever topped Isaiah Logue and Bobby Stiffler.

In the better ball (fourball) matches, Lancaster and York halved a match as Chris Fieger and Bunky Burgess tied Stewart and Bob Ruby.

Lancaster also picked up points for two wins as Corey Gast and Craig Kliever beat T.J. Ostrom and Steve Goodley, and the pair of Andy Zook and Chance Miller defeated Dan Wolfe and Brett Berkheimer.

Play continues in Denver today as 12 singles matches tee off at 8:02 a.m.

In other golf action:

Alfred Dunhill Links Championship: Peter Uihlein holed his second shot for an eagle on the 18th hole Saturday to take a two-stroke lead after the third round of the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship in St. Andrews, Scotland.

After settling for 60 at Kingsbarns when he missed an eagle putt on the final hole, the American managed a more spectacular finish on the Old Course at St. Andrews when his 47-yard wedge shot on the 18th found the bottom of the cup. That gave him a 7-under 65 and a 20-under 196 total.

Martin Kaymer and David Howell shot 63, and Ernie Els had a 64, all at St. Andrews to join Joost Luiten, Shane Lowry and Richard McEvoy at 18 under. Luiten had a 68 at St. Andrews, Lowry shot 64 at Carnoustie, and Richard McEvoy had a 67 at Kingsbarns.

The final round will be played at St. Andrews.

Web.com tour championship: Scott Gardiner had a 5-under 65 and wound up with the lead in the Web.com Tour Championship when Chesson Hadley stumbled at the end at Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Gardiner has played well enough in this four-tournament series that determines PGA Tour cards that he already has locked up his return to the big leagues. A win in the final event would give him top status for the 2013-14 season and a spot in

The Players Championship.

Hadley, who also has secured his card through Web.com Tour regular-season money list, had a two-shot lead for most of the third round on the Valley Course at the TPC Sawgrass. But he bogeyed the 17th, and then took double bogey on the last hole for a 70 that left him one shot behind with Joe Durant (68).

Gardiner was at 10-under 200.

The Web.com Tour Finals replaces the old version of Q-school, which finished with a six-round tournament. The top 25 from the Web.com Tour regular season are assured their PGA Tour cards, leaving 25 additional cards based on a special money list from the four tournaments. Durant was among a dozen or so players who go into the final round with a shot at getting one of those 25 cards.

Legends Championship: Lorie Kane shot a 2-under 70 in tricky wind conditions for a share of the lead with Laurie Rinker in the Legends Championship in French Lick, Ind.

Rinker had a 73 to match Kane at 3-under 141 with one round left in the Legends Tour event at French Lick Resort's Pete Dye Course. Val Skinner was a shot back after a 70.

The winner will receive \$75,000 in the \$500,000 tournament.

First Tee Open: Tom Lehman made a 20-foot birdie putt on the final hole at Pebble Beach for his second straight 5-under 67 and a one-stroke lead in the Champions Tour's First Tee Open in Pebble Beach, Calif.

Lehman, the seven-time Champions Tour winner and former British Open champion, had a 10-under 134 total after rounds at Del Monte and Pebble Beach. He is winless this year.

Russ Cochran, the Principal Charity Classic winner in June in Iowa, also shot 67 at Pebble Beach. Cochran made a 60-foot birdie putt on the par-3 seventh, his 16th hole of the day.

Defending champion Kirk Triplett and first-round leader Bernhard Langer were three strokes back at 7 under. Triplett had a 70, and Langer followed his opening 63 with a 74. They also played Pebble Beach, the site of the final round today.