

Ben Feld Wins Montgomery County Amateur Championship With Come-from-Behind Performance on his Home Course

Drexel University must love Blue Bell Country Club. It seems like every time one of its golfers steps on the course, success follows.

For the second year in a row a Drexel University golfer has won the Montgomery County Amateur Championship. Last year it was Mike Carr, a 2009 Drexel product, who scorched the fairways of Raven's Claw GC and Blue Bell CC en route to what he called his greatest golf moment.

This year it is 20-year-old Drexel student Ben Feld who wielded the magic wand against the best players this golf-crazy county has to offer. Of course, he may have had a bit of an advantage because Feld lives at Blue Bell CC and has been practicing and playing at the course almost every day since he was big enough to swing a golf club.

"I've dreamed of this day for a long time," Feld said, as he hoisted the Fazio trophy, symbolic of supremacy in Montgomery County. "I can't believe it's finally happening.

It almost didn't happen.

Feld held a two shot lead over Dave Shields of Five Ponds GC after the opening round of the 36-hole championship at Raven's Claw GC. But that lead suddenly slipped away on Blue Bell's treacherous 11th hole during the final round. Feld hooked his drive out of bounds and wound up making a triple-bogey 7.

He suddenly found himself one shot behind the more-experienced Shields, who was runnerup in last year's County Am. Feld pulled even with Shields after making a miraculous par save on the 15th hole, as Shields was making bogey.

He then iced the win by dropping a tricky four-foot birdie putt on No. 17, while Shields was making another bogey.

Carr, who shot a pair of 74s, finished tied for third place with Keith Matt of Pinecrest.

Senior Division

Brookside's Rick Custer made it two Senior titles in a row by breaking a three-way first round tie and shooting a final round 74 at Blue Bell Country Club to win by three shots. Custer's closing nine-hole total of 36 proved to be the difference.

Custer's rounds of 77-74—151 outdistanced Plymouth Country Club's Jim Pickens, 77-77—154 by three shots. Mitch Bergman, who held a share of the first round lead, finished third.

Super-Senior Division

Plymouth Country Club's Mike Giambrone proved to be the model of consistency, putting together rounds of 77-77—154 to cruise to an easy victory in the over-65 division.

Women's Division

After a one-year hiatus, Terry Harbaugh of Plymouth CC returned to competition in the County Amateur with a vengeance. The former Pennsylvania Senior Women's Amateur Champion posted rounds of 74-77—151 for a four-shot victory over West Chester University sophomore Nicole Cavalcante. Cavalcante, a former Girls Junior Champion, posted rounds of 77-78—155.

Handicap Division

For the second year in a row Ed Gibson won the Senior Flight with net rounds of 65-69—134. In the Regular Flight, Brad Burdette took top honors with net scores of 65-72—137.