

“The Man to Beat” Robin Rubrecht wins 6th Blue Blazer

Robin Rubrecht claimed his 6th victory in the 22nd annual Evansville Senior City Golf Championship on Sunday at Helrich golf course shooting an even par round of 71 and 136 (-5) total to hold off a very game Brent Porter who finished two shots back at 138.

In Saturday's first round at Fendrich eight players broke par on a perfect day for golf. The field was led by Rubrecht who shot 31 on the front nine and a solid 65 for the round followed by Porter at 66 who made 6 birdies in a row from #3-#8 (30 on the front). These front nine blitzes propelled these two to make it basically a two-horse race on Sunday. Scott Hastings was in contention with a 2-under 68 and Jim Zeller, Dave Bates, Tom Volz, Mark Holder and Dean Brinker were the only others to break par at 69 (-1).

While there were several good players in contention, Brent knew he had his hands full in trying to fend them off and overtake 5-time Champion Rubrecht. “Saturday night I was thinking I am going to have to do something really special to beat Robin” he said. “He is such a class act and he is not going to beat himself. If he makes a mistake he comes right back with a good recovery. He is enjoyable to play with because he is so encouraging and acknowledges your good shots. He makes me think and play better just watching him go about his business” Brent said.

On Sunday the lead changed hands on the first hole as Robin bogeyed and Brent birdied but he made a “sloppy” bogey on #2 and they remained tied at -4 until the tough #6. At this point Scott Hastings was just 1 back at -3 and Tom Volz who made two early birdies had gotten to 3 under but had a mishap on #5 that took him out of contention. Rubrecht made a 15-footer on #6 and birdied #7 to open up a 2-shot lead. Hastings knocked one OB on #7 and lost his momentum.

Starting the back nine Robin had a one-shot lead at -5 over Brent who had held even at -4 since the second hole. “Robin made a phenomenal par on #10 making a 15-footer with 4-5 feet of break from the back right of the green” Brent said. Robin agreed, “it was a pivotal point in the tournament for me.”

After a 4-foot birdie at #12 Robin was 2 up again at -6 but both players 3-putted #13 for bogies and Robin bogeyed #14. In the group ahead, Jim Zeller was closing the gap at -2 with birdies at #11 and #14. He drove the green on #15 and an eagle would have tied him for the lead at the time. He left his eagle putt 2ft short and unfortunately lipped out the birdie putt keeping him at 2 under.

After the two bogies Robin's experience kicked in. “I had to buckle down and play my game.” He drove the green on #15 and made a 2-putt birdie while Brent made a miraculous up and

down birdie from over the back of #16 tee, up against a tree, and over the tee markers to stay one back. Robin said the putt was 30-35 feet with 4-5 feet of break but Brent said it was only 15-18 feet with maybe 3 feet of break. Go figure!! Brent said, "I just laughed. There is no way I should make that putt. But it goes in!"

From there, both made pars on #16 and #17 but Brent made bogey on #18 after hitting it on the back fringe leaving him at -3 and runner-up. Robin made a 7-footer for par to make the final margin 2 shots and post -5 for the Championship. Jim Zeller bogeyed #18 to finish at 139 (-2) and third place alone. His 1-under par round of 70 earned him medalist honors for the day.

Being the defending champion and 6-time winner Robin knows he is the man to beat. "I don't take anything for granted," he said. "There are a lot of good players and you never know what can happen in golf. I know that if I play well, I will have a good chance to win. I just focus on doing the right things. There was good energy out there today in our group. Brent made several nice putts and good shots. There were ebbs and flows all day long. It was exciting and a lot of fun. I love this tournament. I would never want to miss it."

Jeff Ralston prevailed in a one-hole playoff against Ron Nelson to win the Frances Fleming Flight (50-54) matching par 71 on Sunday for a 144 (+3) total. Tim Weiss finished alone in third at 148.

The Billie Martin Flight (55-59) was won by Brent Porter shooting 66-72-138 (-3) and besting Jim Zeller's 69-70-139 (-2) by one shot. Jim was the only player to break par in round 2. Troy Schreiber and Scott Hastings tied for third place with scores of 145 (+4).

Tom Volz won the Bob Hamilton Flight (60-64) with an even par total of 141 which was good enough for 4th in the Overall Championship. Paul Kohlman, Keith Bratton and Robert Prevo finished tied for 2nd in the flight posting 5 over par scores of 146.

In the Richie Moore Flight (65-69) Greg Glisson at 146 won by a single shot over Britt Reddington at 147. Neal Boughton posted 153 for third place.

The Ed Wolf Flight (70-74) was won by Stan Bealmear with a 2 over par score of 143 beating Dave Bates by 2 shots. Chuck Schimmell shot 75 on Sunday to tie Joe Hahn for third at 148.

Tony Hill won the Don Partridge Flight (75+) shooting 151. Don Shull finished second at 153 and Mike Hurt was third with a score of 156.