

# LOCAL NEWS

## SPORTS

# Whistling Straits pro has successful week



BACH

David Bach's red-hot play continued on Monday (July 17) at the National Car Rental Wisconsin Assistant PGA Professional Championship at Meadowbrook Country Club in Racine.

The defending champion showed once again why he is the man to beat in the assistant professional ranks on a lot of days.

After coming up just short with a runner-up finish at the WPGA Member Match Play Championship on Friday, he was looking for a little redemption. That redemption came in the form of back-to-back rounds of 69—the only sub-70 rounds on Monday.

His 4-under-par 138 total would be good enough to win by three shots over Steven

Young of Whitnall Park Golf Course.

On the way to victory Bach would have to take down some of the top playing assistant professionals in the section. The field was again made up of A-8 PGA members, PGA associates and pre-approved assistant tournament players.

During the morning round the Whistling Straits assistant professional set a steady pace as he jockeyed for the lead with Young and Brian Eitel of Ives Grove Golf Links. Late in the round he grabbed the lead and never looked back. He would card four birdies and two bogeys on the way to his 69. The birdies on no. 9 and 17 would turn out to be the only ones carded on those holes during the morning. When the morning was complete, he would hold a one-stroke lead over Eitel and Young.

The afternoon round would prove to be more of the same from Bach. As he piled up more pars and birdies, he would watch his challengers slowly drift away.

"I was steady the whole way," Bach said. "The consistency was there throughout the day. After Friday, I real-

ly worked hard on my putting, and it all came together today."

After bogeying the par-3 2nd he would bounce back with a birdie on the par-4 7th. Just two holes later he would again birdie no. 9. After rolling in a 21-foot putt in the morning, this go around would feature a 12-footer. As he made his way to the back-nine his lead over Young had grown to three shots.

"I actually birdied no. 9 during my assistants match versus Ryan on Sunday too," Bach said. "I don't know what it is about that hole. I made a couple good putts on that hole."

Bach's two-stroke lead would remain until a three-shot swing on no. 16. The University of Wisconsin-Stout graduate played the hole to perfection by hitting his 60-degree wedge from the fairway to 12 feet and rolling in another birdie. Young, however, pulled his drive left into the fescue. The miscue would result in a lost ball and ultimately give him double bogey.

With the tournament in Bach's hands, Young bounced back with birdies on no. 17 and 18. The push proved to be too little too late, as Bach put a cherry on top of

the victory with one last birdie on his final hole.

The 28-year-old becomes the first individual to go back-to-back since Charlie Brown pulled off the feat in 2014 and 2015. The title also provides Bach with the opportunity to return to the National Assistant PGA Professional Championship in November.

"I'm glad to be going back to Florida for a third time," Bach said. "I'm hoping for a better showing than the last few times, maybe the third time is a charm."

Bach's victory came just days after he finished second to Brian Brodell in the WPGA Match Play Champi-

onship at West Bend Country Club.

In the semifinal match that day Bach took on Charlie Brown of Geneva National Resort.

Bach would quickly gain the momentum from the start with steady and overpowering play. After five pars to start the round, he would make two eagles and two birdies on his next six holes. The impressive stretch would lead to an 8 and 7 win.

The stage was set in the afternoon as two of the top playing professionals in the section looked to earn their first WPGA member major championship. Brodell got off to a fast start and held off Bach for the victory.

It was only Bach's second appearance in the event. After making it to quarterfinals in 2022 and now the finals this year, the future looks bright.

"I am happy with how I played, obviously I didn't hit it as close to the pins and make as many putts as I did in the semifinals," Bach said. "I think match play is often determined by the putter. There were a few I could have had but he made some lengthy ones, which is great in match play."

The 64-player bracket started back in May with the two finalists advancing through multiple rounds to get to Friday's final.

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