

Four ex-Buffs qualify for Open sectionals

Portie leads way with victory

Camera staff report
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Ben Portie led a group of four former University of Colorado golfers that qualified for the U.S. Open Sectionals on Monday.

Portie fired a 3-under-par 69 at his home course of The Heritage at Westmoor to earn medalist honors in one of two U.S. Open Local Qualifying tournaments.

Fellow former Buffs Luke Symons (71), Scott Petersen (71) and Kane Webber (72) also advanced out of the Heritage qualifier. Centennial's Barry Milstead (70) and Blanton Tessin (72) of Lake Park, Ga., rounded out the qualifiers from the course in Westminster.

Also Monday, Calgary's Ryan Yip won a second qualifier at Collindale Golf Club in Fort Collins. He earned medalist honors with a bogey-free 6-under-par 65. Also advancing were 17-year-old Wyndham Clark (68), Drew Stoltz (68), Matt Rutledge (68) and Longmont's Tyler Bishop (69). Bishop, who set a course record at Collindale in this event last year with a 63, won a three-man playoff for the final Sectional spot by making bogey on the fourth extra hole.

Last week, amateur Steve Irwin and professionals Andy Connell and John Buffalo advanced from the qualifier at Desert Hawk at Pueblo West.

This year, for the first time in several decades, no U.S. Open Sectional Qualifying tournament will be held in Colorado. Eleven sites around the country, plus two overseas, will host Sectional events, with most being played June 6.

The U.S. Open itself will be played June 16-19 at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md.

U.S. Open local qualifying

At Par-72 The Heritage at Westmoor

Westminster

Advance to sectionals

Ben Portie, Westminster 34-35--69

Barry Milstead, Centennial 36-34--70

Luke Symons, Aurora 35-36--71

Scott Petersen, Parker 35-36--71

Kane Webber, Denver 35-37--72

Blanton Tessin, Lake Park, Ga. 35-37--72

Alternates (In order)

Ryan Anderson, Denver 33-39--72

Derek Fribbs, Castle Rock 34-38--72

Failed to qualify

Derek Tolan, Highlands Ranch 34-38--72

Mike Troyer, Boulder 36-37--73

Pat Grady, Broomfield 37-37--74

Jon Lindstrom, Broomfield 36-39--75

Kevin Bolles, Louisville 39-39--78

Austin Lucero, Superior 37-41--78

C J Ebel, Longmont 40-40--80

Kevin Klatman, Boulder 39-42--81

Thomas B Noonan Jr, Boulder 41-40--81

Kyle Thurman, Louisville 44-41--85

Tyler Winslow, Longmont 44-42--86

Cole Nygren, Niwot 42-48--90

At Par-71 Collindale Golf Club

Fort Collins

Advance to sectionals

Ryan Yip, Calgary, AB 33-32--65

Drew Stoltz, Scottsdale, Ariz. 32-36--68

Wyndham Clark, Greenwood Vil. 35-33--68

Matt Rutledge, Fort Collins 35-33--68

Tyler Bishop, Longmont 36-33--69

Alternates (In order)

James Love, Denver 37-32--69

Danny Hahn, Denver 35-34--69

Failed to qualify

Charles Soule, Longmont 38-35--73

Daniel Brunson, Erie 37-37--74

Christopher Fitting, Erie 40-37--77

Andrew Hebert, Longmont 43-38--81

Ryan Cavan, Broomfield 48-37--85

Steven Miller, Niwot 42-44--86

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