



Putts don't fall for ex-Buff Grady at U.S. Open qualifier

Broomfield golfer makes progress, but settles for second alternate

By Gary Baines
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COLUMBINE VALLEY -- June has been full of new experiences for Broomfield's Pat Grady.

Earlier this month, he made his tournament debut as a professional golfer, finishing fifth in the Socorro Open in New Mexico, earning a paycheck of about \$1,000 in the process. Then on Monday, he came closer to qualifying for the U.S. Open than he ever has.

Grady, who just wrapped up his University of Colorado golf career, tied for fourth in a field of 28 at the U.S. Open Sectional Qualifying tournament at Columbine Country Club. Two players -- Australian Steve Allan and Charlie Beljan of Mesa, Ariz. -- earned berths to the U.S. Open, which will be played June 18-21 at Bethpage State Park in Farmingdale, N.Y.

"I played well and stayed calm, but I couldn't get any putts to fall," Grady said.

The new pro, who finished at 2-under-par 142 for 36 holes, earned the second alternate spot from the Sectional by winning a playoff. Boyd Summerhays gained the first alternate position when Beljan sank a 5-foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole for the final Open berth.

Allan, a regular on the PGA Tour for every year but one since 2001, earned medalist honors with a 5-under-par 139 total (70-69), while Beljan (70-70) and Summerhays (68-72) finished a stroke behind.

Grady hit drives as far as 350 yards Monday -- he drove the green on the 347-yard par-4 sixth hole in the afternoon -- but seldom could make that translate into birdies. He finished with five birdies and two bogeys on the day.

"I played real conservative, but I couldn't get a putt to drop to save my life," he said. "I went 20 holes without a bogey during one stretch, so I was managing my game well, but I couldn't convert anything. I think four of my five birdies were tap-ins."

Grady, winner of two college tournaments this past season, had never before advanced to the Sectional portion of U.S. Open qualifying, much less made it to the Open itself.

Another player who grew up in Broomfield, Shawn Wills, was also in Monday's Sectional field. He shot 77-72--149 to finish in the middle of the pack.

Meanwhile, Allan earned a spot in the U.S. Open for the fourth time in his career, though the first since finishing 28th in 2005. And Beljan, the leading money winner on the 2009 Gateway Tour, will be competing in the Open for the second straight year; he missed the cut in 2008 in San Diego.

Beljan compared the Open-berth-clinching putt he made on Monday to the one he drained to win the 2002 U.S. Junior Amateur.

"The putt I made to win the U.S. Junior Amateur was the biggest putt I've ever made, but that was the second-biggest," Beljan said of his effort on the 18th hole in the playoff. "It feels real good."

Allan played the PGA Tour's International in Castle Rock five times in his career, finishing as high as 20th. And because he enjoyed the area, he decided that Colorado might be a good U.S. Open qualifying site this year. And indeed it turned out to be on Monday as he made nine birdies and a 50-foot chip-in eagle on the par-5 12th in the afternoon round.

"It was good fun," said the 35-year-old native of Melbourne, Australia. "It's nice to get into the Open. There's a lot of history there."

Duval in, Daly out

David Duval is returning to the U.S. Open.

Duval, absent from the last two Opens, made the grade Monday in the 36-hole sectional qualifier at Brookside and The Lakes courses in Ohio. The 121-player field included 61 PGA Tour players. Many were coming off four grueling days at the Memorial Tournament but figured it was worth it to get to play at Bethpage Black in two weeks.

"You look at what's at the other side of it," said Duval, who hasn't won since the 2001 British Open. "You don't have much of a chance to win if you don't tee it up on Thursday there."

Meanwhile, John Daly's return to the U.S. Open will have to wait at least another year.

In his first time competing in America since the PGA Tour lifted his six-month suspension, Daly managed only four birdies over 36 holes of a U.S. Open qualifier Monday. He shot 1-over 143 and didn't come close to getting one of 13 spots available in Tennessee.

"My feet are tired," Daly said after politely declining an interview with a Memphis TV station.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

U.S. Open qualifying

At Columbine Country Club (27 players for 2 spots)

Columbine Valley

Steve Allan, Australia 70-69--139

Charlie Beljan, Mesa, Ariz. 70-70--140

Failed To Qualify

a-amateur

Boyd Summerhays, Phoenix 68-72--140 (1st alternate)

Pat Grady, Broomfield 73-69--142 (2nd alternate)

Also

Kevin Stadler, Scottsdale, Ariz. 71-71--142

Benjamin Clark, San Angelo, Texas 72-71--143

Drew Stoltz, Fort Collins 71-72--143

Zen Brown-a, Arvada 69-74--143

Benjamin Weatherly-a, Australia 69-75--144

Mike Kitowski, Aurora 74-70--144

Tom Whitney-a, La Quinta, Calif., 74-71--145

Jason Preeo, Highlands Ranch 72-76--148

Robb Bierbaum, Albuquerque, N.M. 76-72--148

Micah Rudosky, Cortez 74-75--149

Shawn Wills, Englewood 77-72--149

Joshua Kelley, Upland, Calif. 75-75--150

Tyler Watts, Pine Haven, Wyo. 74-76--150

Caine Fitzgerald, Aurora 74-77--151

Michael Nicolette, Scottsdale, Ariz., 79-74--153

Robert Quaratino, Commerce City 81-72--153

Jacob Lestishen, Lone Tree 77-77--154

Dan McCarthy, Syracuse, N.Y., 79-78--157

Andrew Augustyniak-a, Tempe, Ariz. 75-83--158

Jay Osmon, Alamosa 79-81--160

Michael Curtis-a, New London, N.H., 89-78--167

Jon Levy, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. 89-81170

At Lake Nona Golf and Country Club

(57 players for 3 spots)

Orlando, Fla.

x-won playoff

Josh McCumber, Tampa, Fla. 66-70--136

Tyson Alexander-a, Gainesville, Fla. 71-66137

x-Gary Woodland, Topeka, Kan. 67-71--138

Failed To Qualify

Clinton Jensen, Jupiter, Fla. 69-69--138 (1st Alternate)

Lee Rinker, Jupiter, Fla.. 73-67--140 (2nd Alternate)

At Hawks Ridge Golf Club (43 players for 3 spots)

Ballground, Ga.

Matthew Kuchar, Atlanta 66-68--134

Matt Nagy-a, Buena Vista, Ga. 71-63--134

Cameron Tringale-a, Laguna Niguel, Calif. 67-68--135

Failed To Qualify

x-Patton Kizzire, Auburn, Ala. 72-65--137 (1st alternate)

x-Byeung-Hun An-a, Korea 66-71--137 (2nd alternate)

At Milburn Golf and Country Club

(20 players for 1 spot)

Overland Park, Kan.

Ryan Spears, Wichita, Kan. 69-69138

Failed To Qualify

Sean Dougherty, Overland Park, Kan. 67-71138 (1st alternate)

Chris Thompson, Lawrence, Kan. 73-66139 (2nd alternate)

At Old Oaks Country Club and Century Country Club

(77 players for 4 spots)

Purchase, N.Y.

Kevin Silva, New Bedford, Mass. -70-67--137

Michael Welch, North Quincy, Mass. 68-70--138

Sean Farren, Locust Valley, N.Y. 68-70--138

Trevor Murphy, Scottsdale, Ariz. 70-68--138

Failed To Qualify

Andrew Svoboda, Larchmont, N.Y. 70-69139 (1st alternate)

Gregory Bisconti, South Salem, N.Y. 69-70139 (2nd alternate)

At Brookside Country Club/The Lakes Golf & Country Club and NCR Country Club (120 players for 17 spots)

Columbus, Ohio

George McNeill, Fort Myers, Fla. 65-67--132

Kyle Stanley-a, Gig Harbor, Wash. 62-70--132

Bo Van Pelt, Charlotte, N.C. 65-68--133

Charl Schwartzel, South Africa 65-68--133

James Kamte, South Africa 68-65--133

Lucas Glover, Saint Simons Island, Ga. 63-70--133

J B Holmes, Reston, Va. 68-66--134

Ryan Moore, Spanaway, Wash. 70-64--134

Tom Lehman, Scottsdale, Ariz. 67-67--134

Ben Crane, Westlake, Texas 67-68--135

Craig Bowden, Bloomington, Ind. 66-69--135

David Duval, Cherry Hills Village 66-69--135

John Mallinger, Long Beach, Calif. 70-65--135

Matthew Bettencourt, Duncan, S.C. 71-64--135

Richard Barnes, Phoenix 66-69--135

Rickie Fowler-a, Murrieta, Calif. 70-65--135

x-James Nitties, Australia 66-70--136

Failed To Qualify

x-John Senden, Flower Mound, Texas 71-65136 (1st alternate)

x-Dean Wilson, Las Vegas 69-67136 (2nd alternate)

x-Brett Quigley, Warren, R.I. 68-68--136

x-Chris DiMarco, Cleveland 68-68--136

x-Fredrik Jacobson, Cleveland 67-69--136

x-John Rollins, Colleyville, Texas 66-70--136

x-Matthew Donovan, Pittsfield, Mass. 70-66--136

x-Steve Marino, Saint Simons Island, Ga. 68-68--136

Also

Aaron Baddeley, Scottsdale, Ariz. 67-70--137

Charles Howell, Cleveland 71-67--138

Davis Love III, Sea Island, Ga. 69-69--138

Lee Janzen, Orlando, Fla. 68-72--140

Jose Maria Olazabal, Spain 70-71--141

Jesper Parnevik, Cleveland 73-75--148



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