

2011 96th Southwestern Amateur Tournament Summary

The 96th Southwestern Amateur was held June 14-17, 2011 at Butterfield Trail Golf Club in El Paso, Texas, set at 7272 yards par-72 with a field of 77 players. The Tom Fazio designed course is a challenging layout with prevailing winds as a major defense but during tournament week the winds were light and players took full advantage. Scores were exceptionally low. Stephen Carney from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and a senior to be at the University of Tulsa is our 2011 Southwestern Amateur Champion firing a blistering 72-hole total of 262 (-26), likely a tournament record. Tim Madigan from Rio Rancho, New Mexico, was runner-up four strokes back at 266 (-22) and finishing a distant third was Logan McCracken from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. For details check our website at <http://www.swga.net/>.



A hint of low scores came when Alex Estrada from Belen, New Mexico, fired a first round 64 (-8) to tie the course record. Alex McMahon set a new record with a second round 63 (-9). And that didn't last long when our champion Stephan Carney surged to a 7 stroke lead following a third round 62 (-10).

The new 36-hole 2-man Team Challenge was won by team University of New Mexico #1. Alex Estrada and Sam Saunders from Albuquerque, New Mexico, are exempt into the 2012 Southwestern Amateur and have their entry fees waived.

EL PASO, TEXAS

By Bill Knight

El Paso Times Staff Writer

His final shot was a tournament in microcosm ... a 50-foot putt that rolled over the smooth green, on and on and on until it dunked effortlessly into the cup for an eagle. Stephen Carney was riding the wings of the golf gods for four days, blistering the lush Butterfield Trail Golf Club layout for a jaw-dropping 26-under par 262, easily winning the 96th annual Southwestern Amateur Golf Tournament. How good was Carney? Tim Madigan, who just finished his career at New Mexico State, put together a sizzling 202 for three rounds -- 14-under par over 54 holes. And he was still seven shots behind Carney going into Friday's final round. Madigan shot a white-hot 64, an 8-under par 64, in the final round -- and still lost by four shots. Smiling, Carney, who will be a senior at the University of Tulsa this fall, said, "That was a good ending right there. I just wanted to roll it close. It looked all right, but it was so long ... and then people started yelling 'go in, go in.' Nice finish. I played pretty well today. Mostly it was fairways and greens. I just missed one green today. I didn't make as many putts today (he had only 24 putts in Thursday's course record 62); had a few lip out. But I knew I had a good lead. I was relaxed. A seven-shot lead is pretty relaxing. When it's close anything can happen."

Has Carney ever stepped onto the first tee box on the final day of a tournament with a seven-shot lead? Smiling, holding his arm down low, he said, "Not since I was this tall, maybe." Carney put together rounds of 68-65-62, and then turned in a 67 on Friday for the 72-hole total of 262 ... 26-under par, too-hot-to-touch 262.

Madigan, who is from Rio Rancho, N.M., said he would be firing at pins Friday, trying to chase down Carney and that seven-shot cushion. He gave it a golden run, carding that 8-under par 64. In fact, he cut that lead to four going into the 18th hole. Madigan smoked his second shot on the par five to within 20 feet, way inside Carney's 50-footer. Carney rolled his home, then Madigan rolled his home for his own eagle. "I had two eagles," Madigan said. "One on 12 and that one on 18." Laughing, Carney jumped in, saying, "Tim was trying to trick me into going for it ... said he made that same putt here last summer. He was trying to get me to go flying by the hole." Madigan joined the laughter and said, "No, really. I did make that putt last year." This year he made his own eagle, but it was not nearly enough to catch Carney.

"I was flag-hunting for most of the part," Madigan said. "But Stephen was hitting it so great. I was trying to be smart about it, but there were definitely a lot of times where it was a skirt with birdie or bogey. But, hey, seven down at 202 is pretty rare. Standing on the first tee, I was telling myself he beat me by seven shots yesterday. I can beat him by seven today." Madigan certainly made a run at it. He almost had two more eagles. In fact, he hit the flag stick with his bunker shot on five, but it bounced out. If Carney had blinked at all, Madigan's 64 would have put the heat on him. In fact, if Carney had simply shot even-par 72, Madigan would have hoisted the trophy. But Carney was not about to blink. He was playing a special tournament, just another of four sizzling rounds. He was so good that third place, Logan McCracken, the Texas Tech golfer from Oklahoma City, was a distant 12 shots back at 14-under par 274.

Andrew Widmar, the former Cathedral High and Pepperdine University golfer, was the best El Paso finisher. Widmar shot 66 Thursday, but came back with a 75 Friday to tie for seventh place at 9-under par 279. UTEP golfer David Persons tied for 16th at 3-under par 285. Mike Frias and Daniel Medina tied for 31st at 3-over par 291, Ross Rotwein tied for 37th at 7-over 295 and Jere Pelletier tied for 42nd at 9-over 297.

But this day -- these four days -- belonged to Carney, who simply sailed on the wings of the golf gods to a special tournament, a special win. And he sealed it with a kiss on his final shot ... that 50-foot eagle putt that danced right into the bottom of the cup.

Round 1 – June 14

Alex Estrada from Belen, New Mexico fired a course record tying 64 (-8) to charge into the lead of the 96th Annual Southwestern Amateur Golf Tournament being held on the par 72, 7272 yard Butterfield Trail Golf Club in El Paso, Texas. Alex had an eagle, eight birdies and one double bogey on a day with breezy 10-14 mph NNW winds and temperatures approaching 100.

Logan McCracken from Oklahoma City is two strokes back at 66 (-6) and Tim Madigan from Rio Rancho, New Mexico is currently alone in third place at 67(-5). Of a starting field of 77 players, 20 players were at even par or better, including El Paso players Andrew Widmar, David Persons and Ross Rotwein.

Round 2 – June 15

Alex McMahon of OroValley, Arizona, fired a course and tournament recording setting 63 (-9) to jump into the sole fourth place position with a 36-hole total of 133 (-10). He had nine birdies and no bogeys – a brilliant round of golf.

Benign conditions in El Paso today allowed players to take advantage of Butterfield Trail Golf Club in the second round of the 96th Annual Southwestern Amateur Golf Tournament. With very little wind, forty-two of the seventy-seven players in the field shot even par or better. The low scores today set the cut line at 149 (+5), one of the lowest cut lines in Southwestern history. Forty-six players advance to the third and fourth rounds.

Alex Estrada of Belen, New Mexico, followed his course-tying performance yesterday with a 69 (-3) today to finish in a tie for first place. Stephen Carney of Tulsa, Oklahoma fired a 65 (-7) and Tim Madigan of Rio Rancho, New Mexico shot 66 (-6) join Alex in first place at 133 (-11).

Local players Andrew Widmar (-6), David Persons (-2), Ross Rotwein (-2), Daniel Medina (-1), Jere Peletier (+1), Bradley Lane (+3) and Mike Frias (+5) all made the cut.

In the 2-man challenge that was completed after the second round, the University of New Mexico #1 team of Alex Estrada and Sam Saunders of Albuquerque, New Mexico won with their best 3 of 4 rounds totaling 202. Both players are exempt into and will have their entry fees waived for the 2012 Southwestern Amateur to be at the Ritz-Carlton Dove Mountain Course in Marana (outside Tucson), Arizona.

Round 3 – June 16

It was another record setting day for the third round of the 96th Annual Southwestern Amateur Golf Tournament at Butterfield Trail Golf Club. Today's second round co-leader Stephen Carney of Tulsa, Oklahoma, broke yesterday's record of 63 by Alex McMahon and shot 62 (-10) to take a commanding seven stroke lead into the final round tomorrow. Stephen had five birdies on both the front and back nines and said he was never in any real trouble, and made practically every putt he looked according to fellow competitor Alex Estrada. His 54-hole is an incredible 195 (-21)

Even though conditions strengthened today with 10-15 mph winds and tougher hole placements, twenty-two players broke par. Alone in second place is Tim Madigan of Rio Rancho, New Mexico, at 202 (-14) who played with Carney today and shot a respectable 69 (-3). Madigan is two shots clear of four players who are tied for third place at 204 (-12). Second round co-leader Alex Estrada of Belen, New Mexico, shot 71 (-1), Alex McMahon of Oro Valley, Arizona, shot 70 (-2), Ben Jupper of West Des Moines, Iowa, surged from T9 with an outstanding 64 (-8) and El Paso's Andrew Widmar fired a 66 (-6).

Other El Paso players David Persons shot 66 (-6), Bradley Lane, Mike Frias and Ross Rotwein shot 74 (+2), Daniel Medina shot 75 (+3), Jere Pelletier shot 76 (+4),

Round 4 – June 17

Lest there be any doubt, Stephen Carney of Tulsa, Oklahoma, sank a 50ft putt on the 18th hole for eagle to put the exclamation point on an impressive victory in the 96th Annual Southwestern Amateur at Butterfield Trail Golf Club in El Paso, Texas. He hit 17 of 18 greens in regulation and his only bogey was on hole 16, the one green he missed. He held a seven stroke lead heading into the final round and shot 67 (-5) to finish with a 72-hole total of 262 (-26), four strokes clear of charging Tim Madigan of Rio Rancho, New Mexico, who shot the low round of the day, 64 (-8). Said Steve, "I slept really well last night and was excited this morning to get started. I hit and putt the ball really well and tried to take advantage of the short par 4's and par 5's. I was a little nervous, though, on the second shot on 18 over the water." He certainly didn't seem that way when he coolly knocked in the eagle putt.

Third place went to Logan McCracken of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who closed with a 69 (-3) to total 274 (-14). Andrew Widmar was the low El Paso player, finishing tied for seventh at 279 (-9).

All players who returned a scorecard in the final round have exempt status into the 2012 Southwestern Amateur to be held at the Ritz-Carlton Dove Mountain Golf Course in Marana, Arizona.

The Executive Committee wishes to sincerely thank General Manager Val d'Souza and his staff at Butterfield Trail Golf Club for graciously hosting this event. Thanks also for the following directors for their assistance in conducting this event: Joel Empie, Roger Lake, John Gusky, Ray Korte, Jim Linyard (in absentia), Doug Seery, Gene Lake, Bill Lich, Chuck White, Andy Chavez, Alex Gonzalez, Gary Loeb, Dennis Reilly and new director Otis White. Special recognition to volunteer Clark Swartz and Sun Country Golf Association volunteers Len Fisher and Wade Hampton. For directors who could not attend, we thank them for their continued support of this event.

96th Southwestern Amateur Men's Championship

Butterfield Trail GC, El Paso, TX

Friday, June 17, 2011

Final Results

<u>Place</u>	<u>Golfer Name</u>	<u>Rnd 1</u>	<u>Rnd 2</u>	<u>Rnd 3</u>	<u>Rnd 4</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	STEPHEN CARNEY	68	65	62	67	262
2	TIM MADIGAN	67	66	69	64	266
3	LOGAN McCracken	66	69	70	69	274
4	ALEX McMAHON	71	63	70	71	275
5	BEN JUFFER	72	68	64	73	277
6	SAM SAUNDERS	71	69	68	70	278
T7	ALEX ESTRADA	64	69	71	75	279
T7	ANDREW WIDMAR	70	68	66	75	279
T9	MARK JOHNSON	73	70	69	69	281
T9	PARKER PAGE	68	67	70	76	281
11	ANDREW HAGGEN	71	73	68	71	283
T12	JOSEPH HARRISON	76	68	67	73	284
T12	KEVIN KRING	69	75	72	68	284
T12	MATT RAWITZER	75	68	72	69	284
T12	JEFF WIBAWA	73	65	75	71	284
T16	JAMES BACK	74	72	68	71	285
T16	DAVID PERSONS	72	70	66	77	285
T16	SEAN ROMERO	71	70	70	74	285
T19	LANDON LYONS	70	72	72	72	286
T19	PAUL McNAMARA III	72	71	72	71	286
21	ENZO PEREZ	73	69	70	75	287
22	TYE GABRIEL	75	69	77	67	288
T23	JEAN-PAUL AUBE	77	70	68	74	289
T23	DOUGLAS HEAD	73	74	68	74	289
T23	SCOTT SMYERS	69	72	76	72	289
T26	ANDREW COOPER	74	70	77	69	290
T26	RYAN GRASSEL	78	71	68	73	290
T26	BEN LOWE	70	78	70	72	290
T26	NICK THOMAS	72	73	74	71	290
T26	TRENT REDFERN	73	71	73	73	290
T31	MIKE FRIAS	76	73	74	68	291
T31	DANIEL MEDINA	74	69	75	73	291
T31	BEAU SCHOOLCRAFT	73	70	70	78	291
T34	SAMUEL CHIEN	79	69	72	73	293
T34	CASE GARD	73	67	73	80	293
36	MARSHALL TALKINGTON	74	73	79	68	294
T37	PATRICK HANLON	73	69	70	83	295
T37	JUSTIN KNAUBER	76	70	74	75	295
T37	BRADLEY LANE	77	70	74	74	295
T37	ROSS ROTWEIN	72	70	74	79	295
41	GARRETT IVERSON	74	75	73	74	296
T42	BENJAMIN ESPARZA	78	71	76	72	297

T42	JERE PELLETIER	76	69	76	76	297
44	CHRISTOPHER MILLER	73	73	76	79	301
T45	GEOFF HUNT	76	72	76	78	302
T45	CODY ROBINSON	68	80	77	77	302
	MISSED THE CUT					
47	FIORETTI, RYAN	76	74			150
T47	JOHNSON, MATT	74	76			150
T47	PRICE, BROOKS	80	70			150
T47	SMITH-STETSON, CHAND	77	73			150
T47	VIVOLO, LUKE	76	74			150
T52	LEE, JOON	77	74			151
T52	LEE, RICKY	78	73			151
T52	BEALL, TYE	76	75			151
T52	VANDEN HEUVEL, KEVIN	77	74			151
T52	WILLEY, McCOY	74	77			151
T57	GORENCE, JOEY	80	72			152
T57	STANGER, DALTON	78	74			152
T59	FORSS, ALEX	75	78			153
T59	MAC ARTHUR, JOHNNY	75	78			153
T61	GRANGER, JOSHUA	77	77			154
T61	LOYA, JACOB	76	78			154
T61	PRIESKORN, CABE	78	76			154
T61	SCARLETT, WILL	77	77			154
T65	MIDDLETON, PARKER	75	80			155
T65	ROBERTS, JR., HI	83	72			155
T67	ANDERSON, KEVIN	80	77			157
T67	KING, GARRETT	79	78			157
T67	REZA, JORGE	79	78			157
70	BENT, RYAN	74	85			159
71	MUMFORD, MARK	79	81			160
72	SENATORE, BUDDY	83	81			164
73	SHINDO, KENNY	85	84			169
74	HEDGES, RICHARD	90	88			178
-	ASHTON, PARKER	DNS				----
-	MONACO, BOBBY	DNS				----
-	SCHOVEE, MATTHEW	DNS				----