

Tetherow golf teacher ties for medalist honors in local qualifying for US Open

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

BEND, Ore. - Chris Van Der Velde of Sisters, Oregon and Zach Macdougall of Vancouver, Canada, and tied for the top spot during the Local Qualifying for the 2008 U.S. Open, to be played June 12-15 at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego, Calif.

Chris Van Der Velde - OGA photo

Macdougall, an amateur from Coquitlam, BC and Van Der Velde a former European Tour golfer and the Golf Development Director and Director of Instruction at Tetherow in Bend, Ore. found their way to the top of the field claiming their places in the sectional qualifier to be held at 14 different locations across the United States.

Overall, fifty-four amateurs and 35 professional golfers teed it up at Langdon Farms Golf Club on Wednesday, May 14 beginning at 8am in the hopes of being one of six players to advance to sectional qualifying.

Four Professionals and two amateurs competed in a six-way playoff to decide the final four spots and the positions of the two alternates. James White III of Eugene, Ore., Alex Moore of Richland, Wash., David Lebeck of Beaverton, Ore., Jim Dunlap of Tigard, Ore., Justin St. Clair of Springfield, Ore., and Robert Fisher of Canby, Ore. competed in a playoff where Lebeck, Dunlap, Fisher, and St. Clair succeeded in advancing to the Sectional Qualifier.

As its local representative, the Oregon Golf Association conducts local qualifying in Oregon on behalf of the United States Golf Association. It is one of 111 sites across the country where qualifiers advance to one of 13 sectional qualifying sites. The Sectional Qualifier conducted by the OGA will be held June 2 at Emerald Valley Golf Club in Creswell, Ore. where just one player will make it to the final 156-player field at the U.S. Open.

This year the United States Golf Association accepted 8,390 entries, including the entries from the 58 golfers who are already fully exempt into the field.

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