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PINE TO PALM 2015

Favorites advance in 21 of 32 opening round matches

BY ROBERT WILLIAMS
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Ben Welle was a cool customer in humid temperatures advancing to the round of 32 with a convincing 7&5 match play victory over 2010 champion Todd Hillier Thursday at Detroit Country Club in play at that 83rd Pine to Palm Golf tournament.

"I played extremely well, obviously, nine-under through 13," Welle said.

Consistency has come with ease for the defending champion who is the favorite to win the title four days into the tournament.

His strategy of playing down the middle and excelling on the greens that won him the championship last year has resurfaced this year and he's added some confidence into the mix.

"I hit the ball long and straight and made a lot of putts," he said. "Just feeling really confident on this course right now and with the way I'm playing."

Five upsets were the next scores into the clubhouse with No. 41 Tony Vincelli defeating No. 24 Bryant Buckellew 7&6, while No. 48 Ryan Steinert defeated No. 17 David Elliott 4&3.

No. 49 Robert Wagner defeated No. 16 Jacques Wilson. No. 45 Teddy Cox defeated No. 20 Jason Huntington. No. 37 Andrew Israelson cruised 6&5 over No. 28 Blake Kahlbaugh.

The biggest upset of the early rounds was No. 57 Ryan Vincelli taking out No. 8 and 2003 champion Greg Melhus.

Fergus Falls' Chris Swenson continued his hot play after earning the No. 5 seed dispatching No. 60 Andrew Strand 7&6.

The 2012 champion Beau Hanson, seeded 18th, has found his form defeating No. 47 Bennett Schroeder 7&6.

"He struggled right away," Hanson said. "If I made par, he made a bogey; if I made birdie, he made par. I made some key putts."

While Schroeder battled to find his form, Hanson made the task more difficult by shooting a bogey-free round after getting into the groove during qualifying.

"I played pretty good the first day; I only had a



BEN WELLE, the defending champion, watches his drive on the par four 9th hole during Thursday's match place.

Right: Pine to Palm medalist Grady Meyer chips in for a birdie on the par four 6th hole during Thursday match play. Meyer beat Guy Strandemo 1 up.

BRIAN BASHAM/TRIBUNE

couple bad shots and putt-ed well," he said. "Yesterday was more of a grind. Everything was just a little bit off. Today, I was more consistent off the tee, middle of the green."

Hanson looks increase the pace of his game and make a move for a second Pine to Palm title. He will face No. 15 Jacob Dehne who defeated No. 50 Patrick Traynor 3&2.

"Being aggressive and try to make as many birdies, as possible," Hanson said.

No. 31 Robbie Foster got up early by three after five holes and held the lead for a 5&3 win over No. 34 Nathaniel Varty.

No. 36 Michael Melhus was 1-up at the turn and held court for a 3&2 victory over No. 29 Tony Kallevig.

No. 9 Justin Doeden, coming off a runner-up finish at Resorters in Alexandria last week, con-



tinued his winning ways taking a close match over Detroit Lakes Tanner Schnathorst, seeded 56th, 1-up.

No. 33 Will Czeh needed extra holes to defeat No. 32 Cole Johnson 1-up.

No. 2 and two-time medalist Grady Meyer was 4-up on the turn and completed a 5&4 victory over No. 63 Guy Strandemo.

"Didn't do anything too special today," said

Meyer. "Tried to keep it in front of me and not make any stupid mistakes."

While the humid temperatures were not ideal for spectators, there were not many complaints from players, including Meyer.

"It was a nice day out," he said. "Couldn't ask for anything different; no excuses to make any bogeys."

The No. 3 seed Benjamin Skogen won six of the opening nine holes en-

route to an 8&6 victory over No. 62 David Trett.

At No. 4, Alexander Kline had his hands full with No. 61 Ben Braaten winning 1-up in extra holes.

Matt Rachey, seeded No. 10, held a 3-up lead the entirety of the front nine to win 6&5 over No. 55 Matt Koster.

No. 30 Jake Elliott defeated No. 35 Jordie Siver-son 5&4.

No. 12 Brandon Slet-

moen was 1-down through holes five and nine, evened the match by hole No. 14 and defeated No. 53 Logan Palmer 1-up.

No. 7 Rick Kuhn, No. 15 Jacob Dehne, and No. 26 Charlie Duensing all won their matches by identical scores of 3&2.

DL's Ben Mallow, the 23-seed, saw a 4-up lead on 13 dwindle three holes but held on for a 1-up victory over No. 42 Erik Weiss.

"I was playing fine; I lost to birdies. He made a great birdie on 14, can't be disappointed. On 15, I went left and he stuck one. I left my birdie putt short on 17, it happened but to make par to win on 18, that's fine by me."

Mallow had a great first day making six birdies before having trouble finding fairways on day two.

"Today I kind of scrambled around the course, didn't make too many birdies but it was enough to win today."

Mallow recently received a walk-on spot to play golf at North Dakota State University.

"That'll be fun, really looking forward to that next year," he said.

No. 21 Riley Johnson held on for a 1-up victory over Cooper Opheim in a tight match.

Another top 20 upset went to extra holes where No. 52 Marc Vincelli defeated No. 13 Jim Foss 1-up, along with No. 51 Lukas Davison pulling the upset of No. 14 Nick Evin 2&1.

Moorhead's Lucas Johnson, the 19-seed, cruised 7&5 over No. 46 Brennan Hockman.

Hawley's Cody Cook, the No. 27 playing for Bemidji State University, steadily built a lead to 4-up on 14 and won 5&3 over No. 38 Mark Halver-son.

Cook will face Connor Holland. No. 6 Holland won 2&1 over No. 59 Michael Greenberg.

No. 11 Pat Dietz and No. 54 Brady Robertson were one of the three final groups in on the day.

Dietz recorded a 4&3 victory to advance and face No. 43 Caleb Ketterling who upset No. 22 Noah Lawson 3&2.

In all, 11 of the 32 matches were upsets with all but one of the top 10 players advancing and six of the top 20 falling to higher seeds.

PINE TO PALM

Woodward a positive mainstay at Pine to Palm

BY ROBERT WILLIAMS
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Dave Woodward is in his 23rd year working at making the Pine to Palm golf tournament great and is representative of a strong committee that is dedicated to golf in Detroit Lakes, especially, its largest tournament of the year.

Woodward started with former chairman Gordy Grabow in his first year in charge of Pine to Palm.

"I asked if he needed help and he said, 'sure,' — so I came out and I've been hooked ever since," Woodward said.

So much so Woodward traveled from his new home in Cape Coral, Fla., to be here for this year's tournament to continue his behind-the-scenes work in timing and pairing.

Dave has done nearly every task possible at Pine to Palm in his tenure.

"I've never been the assistant chairman, nor the chairman, nor do I want to be the chairman," he said.

Woodward does get out from behind the scenes each year as the Sunday championship announcer.

"Originally, everything was manual," he said. "The computers have also been a bear. There have been nights when we've been here until two and three in the morning."

Dave can be seen opening each day of the tournament at 6 a.m. and is typically one of the last to leave around midnight.

"I love it," he said. "This is a fantastic tournament. The committee running the tournament, there isn't anybody who isn't doing a good job, and we work well together."

Ted Cihak has joined the brains in the scoring department with specific software he wrote for Pine to Palm that is going through Woodward's trusty hands in beta form to perfect for next season.

"It's doing a fantastic job, but it has its glitches because it's the first year we've used it," Woodward said.

This year's tournament, so far, has been one of the smoothest running



BRIAN BASHAM/TRIBUNE

DAVE WOODWARD is approaching his 25th anniversary volunteering at Pine to Palm, one of the many volunteer efforts he participates in during the course of the year.

in Woodward's 23 years.

"We've had many a time where there are backups off the first tee as much as a half an hour. This year we've been running on time. Whatever is going on right now in this tournament has been fantastic."

With the breadth of experience of the seasoned committee there are not many problems that arise that aren't dealt with quickly and efficiently.

"That's the way the committee works." Being an integral part of the committee and the tournament is something that Woodward plans to continue, as well, despite living at such a distance.

"If health permits and things continue to work the way they have been, as far as my life, I'll keep coming back year after year."

A big part of Woodward's life when he lived in Detroit Lakes that he has continued in Cape Coral is being an advocate for people and an instigator of philanthropy through many different volunteer avenues.

Dave, along with his wife Nancy and 14-year-old granddaughter moved to Florida in March af-

ter he retired from a para-professional career in emotional behavior and disorder class.

"I've also been a stay-at-home dad for the past 13 years," he said.

Dave's many volunteer efforts include the volunteer police force of Cape Coral, he's been a Patriot Guard Rider since 1996, and he's seen at numerous church events, including cooking for the homeless on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

"If you feel like something needs to be done to help the community out, you should get out there and do it. We don't have enough people volunteering to help out. There's a lot of need in every community you're at so get out there and volunteer."

The scope of that request goes from aiding the needy to keeping community functions like the Pine to Palm going. Detroit Country Club is always in need of more volunteers at the tournament.

Woodward's own past is part of what makes volunteering such an important factor in his life.

"Being a Vietnam veteran, I can't say enough about showing respect to

BIRCHMONT

Paskey brings momentum to Laker teammate Ben Mallow

BY ROBERT WILLIAMS
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Ryan Paskey was on the bag caddy for Ben Mallow Wednesday at the Pine to Palm taking a break from swinging clubs coming off a hectic summer schedule that included two wins, the final being the Birchmont junior championship in Bemidji.

The Birchmont is a sister resort tournament with the Pine to Palm and Resorters in Alexandria.

"I've always played in a lot of summer tournaments," said Paskey. I had three tournaments a week. June was a little bit rough but it finally came around at the end of July."

Paskey swept four match play matches to win the title.

He opened with a blowout 6&5 win over Crookston's Charles Eickhof.

"I just wanted to qualify for the championship," Paskey said.

Eickhof struggled off the tee all day and Paskey took advantage for a quick victory dropping only one hole.

"That was a huge confidence booster for the rest of the week."

His second match was far more nerve-racking against Bemidji's Matthew Allen.

The pair combined for 11 score changes and Paskey never led more than 1-up leading to a 2-up lead with two holes to play.

Paskey gave one back at 17 to make it interesting before sinking a four-footer to win the quarterfinal match.

He was matched up in the semis with defending champion Brady Wright of International Falls.

"That was a bit intimidating knowing that he won."

The match featured momentum shifts for both players with Paskey grabbing it as the match reached the concluding holes.

"I grabbed it at the end and just put it away."

The final featured a matchup with Willy Jahner of Dickinson, N.D.

"That was probably one of the best rounds of golf I've ever played." It didn't start that way.

Paskey got off to a rough start with a triple on the first hole including a lost ball in the rough.

"Throughout the whole week, I had to stay patient. It was tough to start with a triple bogey."

Paskey shot 3-under the remainder of the round.

The two had played together the past two days and Jahner had trouble off the tee.

"I had to take advantage of that and just played lights out."

Paskey broke through with his first win of the summer taking a Junior PGA title the week prior.

"That gave me a bit of confidence and I just kept rolling. It was awesome. That Birchmont was the most fun week ever."

Mallow was the benefactor of that confidence with Paskey on the bag Wednesday.

"Ben struggled a bit off the tee, but it's not going to bother him the rest of the week. He's got a good chance as long as he stays calm."

Mallow shot 68 and 75 to finish in the top 20 and heads to match play showdowns later this week.

"He's just as good as those other guys out here. If he gets hot, he's got a great chance."



BRIAN BASHAM/TRIBUNE

RYAN PASKEY, right, is on the bag of Pine to Palm championship flight golfer Ben Mallow, left, during Wednesday's qualifying round.

NORTHLAND OUTDOORS FISHING REPORT PRESENTED BY ANGLINGBUZZ

THIS WEEK'S VIDEOS

Fishing the Comfort Zone of DEEP SUMMER PIKE

Once early-summer water temperatures in the shallows reach about 70 degrees, big pike seem to disappear. In effect, they head to deeper, cooler water, suspending above or inside summer thermoclines, lying across basins, or shifting toward areas where cool-water springs enter a lake. Warmer temperatures just plain stress them out and fish exceeding 10 pounds or so hightail it for cooler options, in areas where most pike anglers don't fish. Thus, when you fish classic weedbeds, deep weedlines and shallow structures during midsummer, the biggest pike simply may not be around.

Yet they are occasionally caught around deep midlake rock humps, or by anglers trolling crankbaits in 25 to 30 feet of water. Freak accidents? No. Simply the results of anglers fishing where the big pike are at that time of the year. If a lake has sufficient oxygen in deep water to

support suspended baitfish like ciscoes, chances are big pike are right down there with them, chowing down on abundant silvery forage.

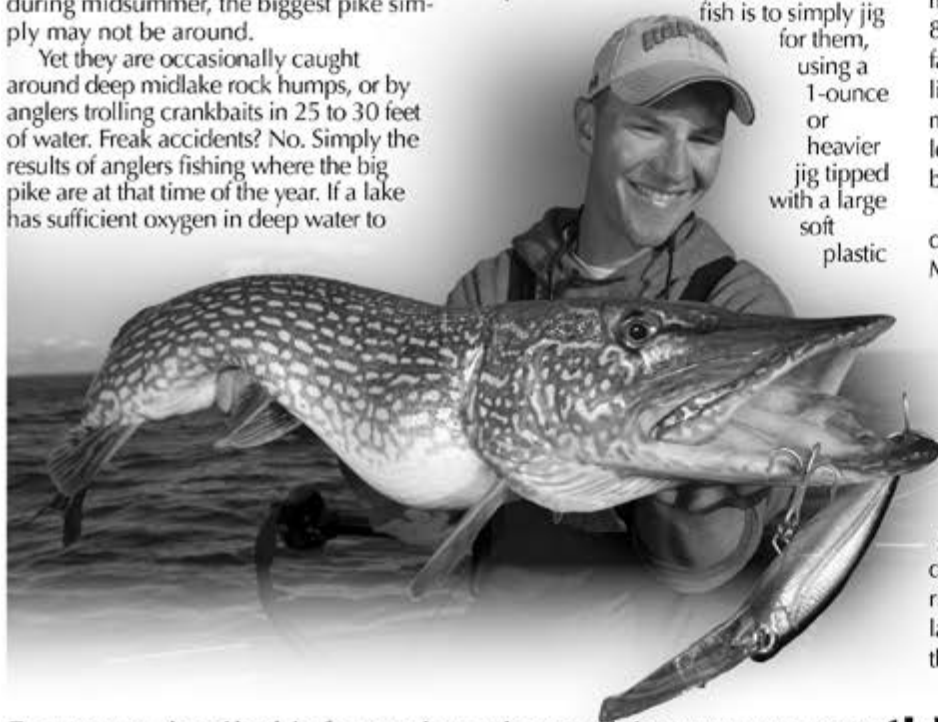
During the heat of midsummer, tactics akin to fishing lake trout catch big pike in, say, 30 to 50 feet of water, typically around the tips of rock points extending into the deep main basin, or around the perimeters of deep midlake humps. Begin by scouting potential areas with your electronics, and when they reveal schools of baitfish and big fish at these extreme depths, chances are that many of them are pike. The easiest way to catch these fish is to simply jig for them, using a 1-ounce or heavier jig tipped with a large soft plastic

tail, such as a Storm Wildeye Swim Shad or Curl Tail. Add a wire leader to prevent bite-offs. If pike won't strike an aggressively jigged lure, simply hold the jig off bottom, suspending it at or just above the fish's level, teasing them into biting. Use flipping sticks spooled with no-stretch superline like Sufix 832 to enhance feel and control in deep water, and to deliver solid hooksets despite the extreme depths.

You can also troll three-way rigs weighted with about 3- to 4-ounce bell sinkers, using a 5-foot leader to troll long minnowbaits like size 14 Husky Jerks or 8-inch Storm Giant ThunderSticks. Troll fast enough to make the baits wiggle, lifting the weight on and off bottom to minimize snags. Once again, add a wire leader, and hang on tight. When you get a bite, it'll be a big one.

In some cases, longline trolling a mega deep-diving crankbait like an X-Rap Magnum 30 will reach sufficient depths, particularly if you're using superline, and pike are no deeper than about 30 feet. This allows a swift trolling speed of perhaps 2½ to 3½ mph to trigger strikes, as opposed to a slower leadcore trolling tactic often used for deep-water walleye.

The point is, fishing such deep water may be out of your comfort zone—but during the dog days of August, it may be right in the pike comfort zone! If you put a large bait in front of a big fish, chances are that good things will happen.



For more detailed information please visit: www.northlandoutdoors.com

Punchin' Largemouth Bass in Heavy Cover

Punchin' is a no-holds-barred method for extracting big bass from down within heavy weedgrowth. Long rods, heavy superline and specialized hooks and sinkers pack a powerful punch!



Spinner Rigging for Summer Walleye

The speed, flash, vibration and action of spinner rigs triggers walleye strikes in warm water. Match your sinker system to fish depth and position for best results.



Topwater Tactics for River Musky

Topwater lures move slowly across the surface, kicking up a ruckus that attracts and infuriates muskies. They allow big fish plenty of time to zero in on, follow and eventually strike the bait.



THIS WEEK'S DESTINATION VIDEO

Fly fishing guide and author Mickey Johnson talks fly fishing in southeastern Minnesota



THIS WEEK'S EQUIPMENT TIP

On-screen mapping reveals primary walleye-attracting areas. Drive right to high-percentage spots on prominent structures, spending less time hunting for fish, and more time fishing for them!



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