

Nebraska Golf Association

6618 South 118th Street, Omaha, NE 68137

T (402) 505-4653 F (402) 505-4695

www.nebgolf.org



NEWS RELEASE		July 11, 2017
FOR RELEASE:	Immediately	
CONTACT:	Ben Vigil, Nebraska Golf Association, (402) 505-4653 ext. 105	

KLUVER TAKES ANOTHER USGA QUALIFYING SPOT

SECTIONAL QUALIFIER STAGED AT ARBORLINKS IN NEBRASKA CITY

Nebraska City, Neb. – Norfolk’s Luke Kluver has advanced through every USGA qualifier in Nebraska that he’s played in this season, including his win Tuesday at ArborLinks, earning him medalist honors and the lone qualifying spot at Sectional Qualifying for the 2017 U.S. Amateur Championship.

The 17-year-old Kluver finished with a 140 (-4) total to claim the qualifying spot by one stroke over Oklahoma Sooner Thomas Johnson and Creighton’s Kade Brown at 141 (-3). All three struggled down the stretch over some difficult holes after a long, hot day, where the heat index stayed consistently above 100 degrees. Kluver caught a tough break on the par-5 16th, where his second shot took a big bounce and nestled up next to some tall native grass. He double-bogeyed, and bogeyed the final hole. Thinking he was out of the running at that point, Kluver was on his way out of town, before he heard of the struggles of the other players at the top of the leaderboard.

Johnson held the lead through 27 holes, but finished bogey-bogey-double-bogey, while Brown made a clutch birdie on No. 16, before finishing with back-to-back double-bogeys. Kluver was shocked to finish where he did, but after his first round 66 (-6), it looked like he might run away with the qualifying spot. Kluver shot 31 (-5) on his second nine in the morning (the back nine at ArborLinks), and played the first four holes on the front nine in three-under in the afternoon, playing those holes in seven-under on the day. That stretch moved him to nine-under, before he fell back into a tie with Johnson prior to the rough finish for all.

Kluver advances to play in the 2017 U.S. Amateur Championship at Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, California. The junior golfer previously advanced through U.S. Open Local Qualifying at the Country Club of Lincoln in May, and also was medalist at Sectional Qualifying for the 2017 U.S. Junior Amateur IChampionship at Elks Country Club in Columbus in late June. It possibly the first time any player has ever qualifying at all three events.

Johnson won a play-off over Brown on the second play-off hole, No. 18, to take the first alternate spot, while Brown will be the second alternate.

Qualifying scores from the Nebraska City site are available at nebgolf.org under the Competitions tab, complete information about the championships may be found at www.usga.org.

#####