



Schaake and Niefeldt Advance to U.S. Amateur at Pebble Beach

U.S. Amateur Sectional Conducted Monday at Firethorn Golf Club

LINCOLN (July 9, 2018) - Omaha's Alex Schaake and Elkhorn's Ryan Niefeldt battled through one of golf's most grueling days in Nebraska and advanced through Sectional Qualifying for the 2018 U.S. Amateur Championship at Firethorn Golf Club in Lincoln on Monday. They qualified for the 118th U.S. Amateur Championship at Pebble Beach Golf Links.

Schaake was flawless in earning his first trip to the U.S. Amateur on a hot day, in more ways than one. The newest Nebraska Match Play Champion did not make a bogey in 36 holes, adding in 10 birdies and earning medalist honors by four strokes. After a first round 68 (-3) and trailing by two strokes, Schaake caught fire to start his second round. He birdied his first three holes, Nos. 10, 11 and 12, then added birdies on Nos. 16 and 18 to shoot 30 (-5). Two more birdies on the front nine, and Schaake posted the low round of the day by two strokes, a 64 (-7). His 132 (-10) was the low score by four strokes.

Niefeldt was in a similar position after the first round, shooting a 1-under 70, and two strokes back of the second qualifying spot. He, too, caught fire, playing his first four holes in three-under, including an eagle on the par-5 third hole. Niefeldt turned in 32 (-4), and closed with birdies on Nos. 16 and 18 to shoot 66 (-5) and take the second qualifying spot with a 136 (-6) total. It's the first time in 18 years that he will play in the U.S. Amateur.

Lincoln's Jay Moore, former Husker and NFL defensive end, was the first round leader after a 66 (-5). He was locked in a battle in the afternoon, playing alongside Schaake. With Schaake pushing it to 8-under at the turn, Moore was just one stroke back at 7-under. Moore chipped in for eagle on the short par-4 second hole to get to 8-under, but he made a double-bogey on the next hole and struggled down the stretch, finishing at 141 (-1) after a 75 (+4).

Norfolk's Luke Kluver, who played in the 2017 U.S. Amateur, is the first alternate, after finishing at 138 (-4), while Moore is the second alternate.

Schaake and Niefeldt will next play at the 118th U.S. Amateur Championship at Pebble Beach Golf Links in Pebble Beach, California.

Final results can be found on the NGA website here: http://nebgolf.org/competitions_2018usgaqualifiers.htm

For more info on the U.S. Amateur visit the championship website here: <http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/championships/2018/u-s--amateur.html#!latest>

About the USGA

The USGA celebrates, serves and advances the game of golf. Founded in 1894, we conduct many of golf's premier professional and amateur championships, including the U.S. Open and U.S. Women's Open. With The R&A, we govern the sport via a global set of playing, equipment and amateur status rules. Our operating jurisdiction for these governance functions is the United States, its territories and Mexico. The USGA Handicap System is utilized in more than 40 countries and our Course Rating System covers 95 percent of the world's golf courses, enabling all golfers to play on an equitable basis. The USGA campus in Liberty Corner, New Jersey, is home to the Association's Research and Test Center, where science and innovation are fueling a healthy and sustainable game for the future. The campus is also home to the USGA Golf Museum, where we honor the game by curating the world's most comprehensive archive of golf artifacts. To learn more, visit usga.org.

About the NGA

The Nebraska Golf Association, founded in 1966, is comprised of all members of public and private clubs and/or municipal or regional golf associations which utilize an approved handicap service recognized by the USGA and provided by the NGA. Our mission is to uphold and promote the game of golf and its values to all golfers in Nebraska. Among the duties of the Association include governance of member clubs and service as their handicapping and course rating authority, conduct of state golf championships, local USGA qualifying & other notable competitions, promotion of junior golf, presentation of worthwhile educational programs and support of allied golf organizations in Nebraska. The Nebraska Golf Association is an Allied Golf Association of the USGA and carries out core services including Handicap Administration and Oversight, Course Rating, Rules of Golf and Rules of Amateur Status, Tournaments and USGA Championship Qualifiers and USGA Initiatives and Community Programs.

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