



Sean Song Claims Medalist Honors at U.S. Open Local Qualifying

Four Advance to U.S. Open Sectionals from Omaha Country Club

OMAHA (May 17, 2018) - Four players advanced out of Local Qualifying for the 2018 U.S. Open Championship on Thursday at Omaha Country Club.

Omaha's Sean Song, a junior on the Husker golf team, caught fire late in his round to earn medalist honors with a round of 69 (-1). Song was 3-over after a double-bogey on the par-3 11th hole, but birdies on four of the next seven holes put him in the clubhouse as the only player to break par. Song, who finished T8 in the 2016 Nebraska Amateur at Omaha Country Club, birdied the short par-4 13th and 14th holes, before adding back-to-back birdies again on Nos. 16 and 17. A par on the difficult 18th hole gave him a back nine 33 (-2).

Darin Fisher, a professional from Albia, Iowa, and Andrew Beckler of Topeka, Kansas both finished at even-par 70 to take two of the four qualifying spots available. Three players shot rounds of 71 (+1) to get into a playoff for the final spot, including Nate Vontz of Lincoln and Alex Schaake and Raul Cortes of Omaha. Vontz two-putted for par on the first playoff hole (No. 1 at OCC), while Schaake and Cortes both lipped out par putts, giving Vontz the final qualifying spot. Vontz just finished his freshman year on the Creighton golf team.

Cortes and Schaake continued to playoff to decided first and second alternate, with Cortes two-putting for birdie on the par-5 second hole to get first alternate position. Schaake, the 2016 Nebraska Amateur Champion at Omaha Country Club, is the second alternate.

Song, Fisher, Beckler and Vontz will next play at one of 10 U.S. Open Sectional sites on Monday, June 4.

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

For more info on the U.S. Open visit the championship website here: <http://www.usopen.com/>

A dropbox folder is available with some video highlights of today's action and interviews with some of our qualifiers, please feel free to use any video content with credit to @NGAgolf: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3uw3douwpy43275/AADTIZgu-7rJujHou9CByDTSa?dl=0>

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.

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.

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