

## DR. JOHN ABER MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC

SEWICKLEY – The setting was perfect.

A hot summer day on an outstanding classic golf course, competing in an event to honor the memory of a man synonymous for years with golf in Western Pennsylvania.

The Dr. John Aber Memorial Golf Classic was held for the fourth time Monday at Allegheny Country Club, a layout that neared perfection with plenty of fire for the field.

In the end, the three-under par 67 posted by Shaler High School grad and junior-to-be at the University of Findlay (Ohio) Tanner Grzegorzczuk was good enough for a one-shot victory over fellow amateurs Darin Kowalski and Austin Lemieux.

“That was pretty cool,” Grzegorzczuk, whose sister caddied for him, said. “It’s the first time I’ve won something in quite a while, so it feels good. I made a lot of birdies (four and one bogey). I don’t really think about who’s in the field or any of that. I just go out and play.”

While he hadn’t won in a while, Grzegorzczuk did carry a bit of momentum on Monday. A week ago, he finished in a tie for fifth at the Pittsburgh Open at South Hills Country Club.

The difference on the day came at the 16<sup>th</sup> hole, a brut of an uphill par four of 446 yards. He reached the green in two and made the putt for a birdie that provided the margin of victory.

Kowalski, another of the young bombers in the area, made five birdies and three bogeys.

“I was trying to build on the momentum from last week, yeah,” he said, referring to his win in the Pittsburgh Open on his home course. “I played pretty solid today, just left a few out there.”

Lemieux, the son of National Hockey League Hall of Famer and Pittsburgh Penguins’ co-owner Mario Lemieux, made two birdies and no bogeys in his round.

“I missed a few short ones out there, but that’s OK,” said the 24-year-old Lemieux. “This is my first full year and I’m still trying to get into the competitive part of the game. I hope to get out in these kinds of events more.”

He said he plays most days, including some matches against his dad.

“I’ve always loved golf,” the younger Lemieux said. “It was close to being No. 1 for me. But hockey is all done now. I’m ready to start a new chapter.”

For John Aber, son of Dr. John Aber and Staci Creech, his daughter, this event has become very special. John is the head professional at Allegheny and the unofficial host of the event. Creech lives in Denver with her husband, who is the athletic director at the University of Denver. She plays on the competitive amateur a bit in Colorado.

“It’s been awesome how supportive the guys have been of this event. It means a lot,” Aber, who shot 71, said. “I miss him every day.”

Creech posted a 73 and displayed an exceptional short game. She topped it off with a great second shot into the 18<sup>th</sup> green, leaving her a 4-foot downhill tickler which she made for a birdie.

“It means a lot to me to come back every year and play in this,” Creech, who played in the same group as her brother, said. “Credit to the Tri-State PGA for putting this on because it really does mean so much to us.”

Dr. Aber’s grandson, J.F., finished a shot behind his dad at 72.

The Tri-State PGA will conduct the 2020 National Car Rental/TSPGA Assistant Championship is scheduled to played today at Shannopin Country Club. There will be two qualifying spots and three alternates for the 2020 National Assistant Championship.