

LINKS BREWING CO. STABLEFORD CHAMPIONSHIP

WASHINGTON – Rick Stimmel likes the opportunities he gets to play against his friends who are Tri-State PGA professionals.

Safe to say the veteran amateur had an absolute blast playing against those boys Monday at Lone Pine Country Club in Washington.

The occasion was the Links Brewing Co. Stableford Championship, a unique format that golfers don't often get to compete in. Players are awarded points on each hole based on their score.

For example: a double eagle is worth eight points; an eagle is five, a birdie two, par is zero, a bogey is minus one and a double bogey or higher is minus three.

Most points win and Stimmel had the most points by a considerable margin.

"I had never played that format before and have never seen that course before," Stimmel said. "I signed up Friday night and it really was fun."

Part of the fun was that he shot rounds of 68 and 66 on the strength of 13 total birdies. He had 9 points in the first round and 14 more in the second.

His closest competition came from a trio of players who finished with 12 points: Joe Boros, Ari Papadopoulos and Michael Gervais.

Stimmel trailed playing partner Dan Rodgers after the first round, 11-9, but Rodgers struggled to a minus six in the second round and fell off.

The dominating performance is a continuation of a hot streak Stimmel has been on. Early on he won the West Penn Golf Association's Spring Stroke Play Championship. He finished fourth in the Tri-State Open and finished second in the R. Jay Siegel Pennsylvania Amateur Match Play. He added seconds in the State Match Play and the State Amateur.

Other than that it's been something of a quiet summer for Stimmel.

"I got it going pretty well," he laughed. "I've just been playing really well. Today I just went out and played and it worked out pretty well."

At the State Match Play, Stimmel played the equivalent of four and a half rounds. During that time, he made 27 birdies and five eagles.

"Sean (Knapp) called me the other day and told me that in my last two state events, I'm 29-under par," Stimmel said. "I've been playing very well."

Next up for the Tri-State Section PGA will be two-day West Virginia Pro-3 Am at Stonewall Jackson Resort on Aug. 10 and Pete Dye GC on Aug. 11.