

# Speirs needs consistency to succeed at Web.com

BY LARRY MAHONEY  
BDN STAFF

Bangor’s Jesse Speirs has made the cuts in four of the last five events on the Web.com Tour after missing the cut in his first five tournaments, but one bad round in each tournament has been preventing him from making significant headway on the money list.

The Web.com Tour is one step below the PGA Tour and the top 25 money-winners will earn their PGA cards for next season.

Speirs is currently 144th on the list with earnings of \$6,280. The golfer who owns the 25th spot on the money list, Joel Dahmen, has made \$71,705. Tour leader Wesley Bryan has pocketed \$280,692 after 10 tournaments.

Speirs was tied for ninth after the first two rounds of the Corales Puntacana Resort and Club Championship in the Dominican Republic this past weekend with a 9-under par 135 but he ballooned to a 78 on the third day before finishing with a solid 68 to wind up tied for 61st at 7-under par 281.

He has had a round of 77 or worse in six of his 10 tour-

naments. He has also had nine rounds under 70, which prompted him to say “that shows you [the potential] is there.”

“Things are getting squared away. I feel like I’m moving in the right direction. I’ve been driving it real well, my chipping is a lot better and and I’m rolling putts well.

“Now I’ve just got to do a better job of not wasting shots. I have to do a better job after a bad swing. You can’t afford to hit consecutive bad shots. You can’t hit every shot perfect but you can’t let it snowball,” said the 29-year-old Speirs. “I have to make sure I’m going the right things mentally.

He added a bad round has to be par or 1-under par.

“You can’t have just two or three good rounds. It has to be all four rounds. The money is top-heavy so I’ve been killing myself [financially] on the weekends after making the cut,” he said.

Speirs will play 11 tournaments over the next 12 weeks through the end of August.

The next tournament, the Rust-Oleum Championship at the Ivanhoe Club in Illi-



Jesse Speirs of Bangor tees off on the 10th hole on the first day of the Greater Bangor Open at the Bangor Municipal Golf Course in July 2014.

nois, started Thursday.

Despite his ups and downs, Speirs is having fun.

“I had always dreamed about playing on the PGA Tour and this is the only

way to make it. I have to make the most of my opportunity this year,” said Speirs, who noted that he can earn a PGA card with “three or four good weeks

on the Web.com Tour.

He will need to finish in the top 75 to return to the Web.com Tour and be eligible to play in all the tournaments next season. Those

who finish 76-100 earn conditional status and will earn an exemption into the second stage of the Web.com Tour qualifying tournament.

## Nadal out of Wimbledon with injury

REUTERS

LONDON — Two-time former champion Rafael Nadal will not play at this year’s Wimbledon due to the wrist injury that forced the Spaniard out of the French Open, he said on Thursday.

“I’m sad to announce that after talking to my doctors, and receiving the results of my last medical revision, I won’t be able to play at Wimbledon this year,” Nadal said on his Facebook page.

“As you can all imagine, it’s a very tough decision, but the injury I suffered at

Roland Garros needs time to heal.”

Nadal’s withdrawal is a blow for the championships at which he has been such an attraction for more than a decade, especially with his victories in 2008 and 2010.

He also had to pull out before the 2009 edition of Wimbledon with a knee injury when he was defending champion, cit-



Nadal

ing that as “one of the toughest decisions of my career.”

Nadal was also badly missed at the last fortnight’s French Open after pain in his left wrist flared up and he was forced to withdraw following a landmark 200th grand slam win over Argentina’s Facundo Bagnis in the second round.

The Spaniard had needed an injection before that match and broke the news the following day to reporters that he would be forced to abandon his assault on a 10th Roland Garros title.

Wearing an arm brace

and appearing close to tears, the 14-time grand slam winner had said in Paris that the press conference was the hardest he had ever given.

He explained that he risked further serious injury — and a likely tear of his wrist tendons — if he continued to play.

The 30-year-old’s career has been littered with injuries, particularly to his knees. He also missed the U.S. Open in 2014 with a problem with his right wrist and has suffered from back and hamstring problems as well as appendicitis.

## Hernandez signs lawyers for trial

Ex-NFL star faces double-murder charges

REUTERS

BOSTON — Former New England Patriots star Aaron Hernandez, who was found guilty last year of killing an acquaintance, has hired new lawyers, including the man who successfully defended a Florida woman accused of murdering her daughter, to represent him in his upcoming double-murder trial.

Florida lawyer Jose Baez, known for successfully defending Casey Anthony in her high-profile 2011 trial, and Harvard Law School Professor Ronald Sullivan will represent the former NFL player when he faces charges of shooting dead two men outside a Boston nightclub in 2012.

Hernandez, 26, was a star tight end with a \$41 million contract when he was arrested in June 2013 and charged with murdering Odin Lloyd at an industrial

park near his suburban Boston home. He is serving a life sentence for that crime.

He is awaiting trial on separate charges that he fatally shot two men, Cape Verde nationals Daniel Abreu and Safiro Furtado, outside a Boston nightclub after one of them unwittingly spilled a drink on him.

“Hernandez strongly maintains his innocence, and I plan to establish that before a jury of his peers,” Baez said in a statement. “We understand that numerous reports of our client’s alleged activity have been published, but we ask the public to afford Mr. Hernandez the presumption of innocence and let the facts unfold in a court of law.”



Hernandez

## Dustin Johnson once again in contention

REUTERS

Dustin Johnson has come close to victory several times on the PGA Tour this season without winning and the long-hitting American was once again back in contention at the FedEx St. Jude Classic in Memphis on Thursday.

A nine-time winner on the U.S. circuit, Johnson fired a four-under-par 66 at the TPC Southwind to stand just one stroke off the lead held by compatriots Tom Hoge and Shawn Stefani, and South Korea’s Noh Seung-yul.

Fan favorite Phil Mickelson, a five-time major winner who next week will head to Oakmont searching for a first U.S. Open win after a record six runner-up finishes, returned a 70.

Johnson, who won here in 2012, was relatively happy with an opening round that included seven birdies, an eagle at the par-five 16th, three bogeys and a double at



CHRISTOPHER HANEWINCKEL | USA TODAY

Dustin Johnson hits his tee shot on the ninth hole during the first round of the FedEx St. Jude Classic golf tournament at TPC Southwind in Memphis on Thursday.

the par-three 14th.

“I felt like I played a lot better than my score,” the 31-year-old said after finishing level with fellow Americans Brian Gay, Colt Knost and PGA Tour veteran Steve Stricker, Welshman Jamie Donaldson and Argentina’s

Miguel Angel Carballo.

“Just kind of gave away a few shots on the back side, which was my front nine, and then obviously finishing with two (bogeys after the turn)... just gave away a couple of shots.”

Johnson, whose most re-

cent PGA Tour victory came at last year’s WGC-Cadillac Championship in Miami, has recorded seven top-10s this season in 12 starts, including two third placings.

“Feel like I have been playing really well all year,” he told reporters. “The game is good, it’s really good right now ... just got to give myself an opportunity to get it done on Sundays.

“The only thing that has really held me back from winning a bunch of times this year is just making a few more putts.”

Noh, who claimed his first PGA Tour title at the 2014 Zurich Classic of New Orleans, surged into a three-way tie at the top after picking up two shots in his last three holes.

“Pretty solid today, and then just one bogey,” he said after a round highlighted by six birdies, and a superb approach from 140 yards at the par-four last that settled within a foot of the cup.

## Coach

Continued from Page B4

“With their prompting and me really thinking about it, I said OK. I’ve coached a lot of these guys, they’re great kids from great families, and I like what Bangor stands for. I like the tradition,” he said.

Berenyi’s resume includes experience at virtually every level of the sport from junior high through high school and premier travel teams, and he sees differences between coaching at the club and high school ranks.

“You’re really balancing it with the academics on the school side, and it’s a five-day-a-week program, so it’s

really intense for a shorter period of time,” he said. “Whereas at the club or premier level it’s a longer season but not as intense. You’re only practicing a couple days a week with games or tournaments on weekends, so I think you have a greater opportunity to develop and work with players during the high school season because of the amount of time you get to spend with them.

“It’s a good fit for me because I’ve got a commitment to really developing players as people and developing people into young men but also really wanting to be successful on the pitch, so to speak,” he added. “I’m pretty competitive by nature, but I’ve been around long enough, too, to see the bal-

ance that it’s not just about your wins and losses.”

Berenyi, who is employed as an administrator at Harbor Hill, a retirement community in Belfast, was an assistant coach at Calvary Chapel in Orrington when his son Stephen starred for the Sabers before going on to a successful college soccer career at Husson University in Bangor.

He’ll have a similar opportunity at Bangor, where twin sons Garth and Jacob will be juniors for the Rams this fall.

“My sons and I are like minded,” he said. “They want to be successful, and they know in order to be successful you’ve got to work hard. I always want my players to trust me, and my kids do because I’ve

earned their trust from coaching them and having success on different teams that I’ve coached and played on, so I think it’s actually a really good fit.”

The Berenyi twins will be among the key players back from the 2015 Bangor squad that finished 11-4-1 and reached the Class A regional semifinals.

“We’re a little light on seniors, but we have a handful of good, solid juniors and a couple of seniors who will be good leaders for the team, and we’ve got a really strong group of sophomores and freshmen,” Berenyi said.

“We’ve got a good corps to work with, so I think we’ll do well this year, but I also think it speaks well for the next couple of years as well,” he said.

## Softball

Continued from Page B4

were looking to hit our pitch,” said Richards.

Old Town broke a 2-2 tie and took the lead for good with two runs in the bottom of the third inning.

Albert walked, King singled, a wild pitch moved the

runners up to second and third, and Richards hit a sacrifice fly before the final run scored on an infield throwing error.

Old Town made it 5-2 in the fourth when Olivia Westura reached on an infield single, went to second on a groundout and scored on Albert’s sharp two-out ground ball single to center.

Richards homered to cen-

ter to open the fifth, and the Coyotes added four runs in the sixth highlighted by King’s two-run triple to left.

Old Town had taken a 2-0 lead on an RBI single by Albert in the first and Olivia King in the second, but Leighton’s two-run homer tied it in the top of the third.

In addition to Caitlyn King, Hayward and Albert,

Kayla Hayward and Natalie St. Louis also were repeat hitters for the Coyotes. Hayward doubled and singled, and St. Louis singled twice.

Leighton had a single to go with her homer for Nokomis. Alyssa Ellis had two singles, and Aren Herick doubled. Libby Duni- van pitched a complete game.

### The Northeast Harbor Golf Club

### OPENING FOR THE SEASON MAY 9TH

All Day Green Fees:

**\$45**

With this ad 2 people & a cart

Special for 18 holes: **\$100**

Expires 6.30.16



(207) 276-5335 • 15 Golf Club Rd  
Sargent Drive, Northeast Harbor