

# Three golfers share first-round lead at Maine

BY WIL KRAMLICH  
SUN JOURNAL

MANCHESTER — It was crowded atop the leaderboard midway through the first round of the Charlie's Maine Open on Monday. But late in the day, a trio of out-of-state players came in to give the tournament a final threesome to watch.

Virginia's Ted Brown, Connecticut's Jason Thresher and Maryland's Joshua Eure each shot 4-under 66s on the par-70 Augusta Country Club course to share a one-shot lead over five other players after the first day of the two-day, 36-hole tournament.

All three players came from the second wave of tee times, which started at noon. Brown was the first to tee off, at 12:50 p.m., then Thresher 10 minutes later, and Eure a half-hour after that.

All five players a stroke back came from the first wave, and by the time all of those players came in, the leaderboard was crowded. Many of the 11 players two shots back finished early, and seven more players shot 1-under 69s to put themselves within three shots of the lead heading into Tuesday's final round.

For Eure, who played in the third-to-last group of the day, the round turned out to be a preview of what he'll experience playing in the final group.

"That's obviously the goal, is to play late afternoon on the last day," said Eure, from Crofton, Maryland.

The final threesome will tee off at 1:40 p.m. Tuesday.

The trio arrived at 66 strokes after 18 holes in three different ways. Brown played bogey free, with four birdies through the first four holes and pars the rest of the way. Thresher, from West Suffield, Connecticut, started his round with a bogey on the 10th and double-bogeyed the seventh. In between, he birdied seven holes, including three straight from the 17th through the first.

Eure nearly finished his round with sole possession of the lead but bogeyed the 18th to settle for a three-way tie.

"I bogeyed 18, so a little bit of a sour taste," Eure said. "And I missed like a 7-footer on 17 for birdie, so a couple shots left out there, but overall it's a pretty good day."

Like Eure, Brown said the key to his round was to keep



RUSS DILLINGHAM | SUN JOURNAL  
Roger Williams, of Turner, blasts out of the sand trap on the second hole of the Augusta Country Club Monday morning during the opening round of the 2016 Charlie's Maine Open golf tournament.

the ball in the fairway. That gave Brown plenty of shots with his wedge, which he said is an area of his game he usually thrives at but that wasn't necessarily the case Monday.

"Shot 4-under, feel like I left a bunch out there," said Brown, from Glen Allen, Virginia. "So it's always good when that's the feeling. I hit in play pretty much

every hole. If you do that, you're going to have a lot of wedge [shots]. I think there was only one hole that I didn't have a wedge in, other than par-3s. You do that, you're going to have a lot of looks."

Defending champion Matt Campbell was less enthusiastic about his round, but he still heads into Tuesday just two shots back after posting a 2-under 68.

"Struggled, made back-to-back bogeys on [holes] seven and eight, and I just didn't really get it around," said Campbell, from Clifton Park, New York. "But the same as what I shot first round last year."

Campbell said he hasn't been playing as well this summer as he did last year, when he won the Maine Open for his first career win, then

added the Tupper Lake Open in New York to his mantle just a few weeks later.

A groupmate of Campbell's, Falmouth resident Matt Hutchins, is coming off a win in the Maine Amateur two weeks ago. The 19-year-old got off to a fast start, shooting 2-under through nine holes, but finished at 2-over 72.

"I just made bogeys. I made four bogeys, and it happens," Hutchins said. "It's just golf. Everyone plays like crap some days. Everyone doesn't have their best stuff some days."

The third member of the tournament's opening group had the best round of the three. Jeff Martin of Warwick, Rhode Island, was one of the five players at 3-under.

"The two guys I played with played pretty well," Hutchins said. "It was a good time playing with them."

Joining Martin with 67s were former Maine Open champ Shawn Warren, from Cape Elizabeth, and Damariscotta's Malcolm Oliver, as well as Colin Brennan of Methuen, Massachusetts, and Spencer Mellon of Oakmont, Pennsylvania.

Campbell was joined at 2-under by another former Maine Open champ, Thomaston's Ricky Jones.

## Golf

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They also introduced her to club pro Chris Angis, and he was going to give her a quick lesson.

"He told us he wasn't going to charge us because he figured with the attention span of a 5-year-old, the lesson would be over in 10 minutes," said Barbara Wright.

"He had to drag her back in after an hour," Tom Wright said with a grin.

Barbara Wright thinks her granddaughter has since played 18 holes each time she steps back onto a golf course.

Plourde is just 16, but she has already racked up an impressive resume as she prepares for her senior year at Lincoln Academy. She won the state schoolgirl golf championship last fall after sharing the title as a freshman and tying for second as a sophomore.

She won the Junior Girls state championship earlier this month.

"At first, I just went out and had fun. Then, when I was 8 or 9, I wanted to play competitively," said Plourde.

She works hard on her game about six days per week during the season "depending upon what tournaments I have."

But after the state schoolgirl championships in October, she puts her clubs away to play basketball for Lincoln Academy.

"I like taking a break



LARRY MAHONEY | BDN  
Staci Creech of Veazie watches her chip shot during the first round of the Maine Women's Amateur Monday at Penobscot Valley Country Club in Orono.

from it so when I come back to it, I'm fresh," she said.

Plourde will occasionally go to the Golf and Ski Warehouse in Scarborough to hit some balls during the winter.

She feels good about her game.

"I'm getting better. I've been more confident in my game lately," said Plourde. "My short game has gotten a

lot better. And I've gained about 15 yards with my drives and every other club. My yardage and my greens are a lot better."

She said by working on her game, it has enabled her to get stronger physically.

"Her game has definitely been getting stronger," said Bob Plourde, who caddies for her and added that she maintains her composure

on the course even if she hits a bad shot.

Bailey Plourde doesn't envision becoming a professional golfer but would like to play in college and has been weighing offers from Division II and III schools.

"She's a great girl. It's good to see her playing well," said Creech, who got to know Plourde when the two of them traveled to St. Louis last year to play for the Maine team in a national tournament.

"She's fun. She's laid back. She doesn't take it too, too seriously. She hits it pretty well," she added.

The 43-year-old Creech, a former University of North Carolina standout, registered an eagle, five birdies and three bogeys en route to her 69, and Plourde carded six birdies and two bogeys.

"I'm happy," said Creech, whose chip shot on the 18th hole came inches away from landing in the cup. "I putted much better than I had been. I've been working hard on it."

"I made a couple of mistakes. I had a bad three-putt on 16. I left a few [putts] out there. You can't get aggressive with your putts on these greens," added Creech, the wife of University of Maine Athletic Director Karlton Creech.

Plourde earned a share of the lead with a 12-foot birdie putt on 18 and was pleased with her round.

"My putting is really strong right now," she said. "You have to stay below the pin. The one time I was above the pin, I bogeyed the hole."



ADAM HUNGER | USA TODAY SPORTS  
New York Yankees relief pitcher Aroldis Chapman pitches against the Baltimore Orioles recently at Yankee Stadium. Chapman was traded to the Chicago Cubs on Monday.

## Yankees

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son. My girlfriend and I have worked hard to strengthen our relationship, to raise our daughter together, and would appreciate the opportunity to move forward without revisiting an event we consider part of our past. Out of respect for my family, I will not comment any further on this matter.

"I cannot wait to take the mound at Wrigley Field and look forward to helping my teammates deliver a championship to Chicago."

Speculation circulated Monday morning that one reason why the teams had not announced the trade earlier was because the Cubs were attempting to sign Chapman to a long-term deal. Chapman, a free agent after this season, is making \$11.3 million.

Chapman, known for a fastball that can reach 105 mph, has been one of the biggest names rumored to be on the trading block.

He has 166 saves over his seven-year major league career, the first six of which were with the Cincinnati Reds. The 28-year-old Cuban was 3-0 with a 2.01 ERA, 20 saves and 44 strikeouts with the Yankees this season.

"Obviously, we are aware of the circumstances surrounding Aroldis Chapman's suspension earlier this season," Cubs chairman Tom Ricketts said in a statement. "We are also aware that he co-

operated fully with the league investigation and takes responsibility for his actions. ...

"I shared with him the high expectations we set for our players and staff both on and off the field. Aroldis indicated he is comfortable with meeting those expectations. Finally, my family, this team and Major League Baseball take the issue of domestic violence very seriously and support efforts to reduce domestic violence through education, awareness and intervention."

Torres, 19, was the Cubs' top-ranked prospect and No. 15 in baseball, according to ESPN baseball insider Keith Law. In 94 games for Class A Myrtle Beach this year, Torres batted .275 with a .359 on-base percentage, a .433 slugging percentage, nine homers and 47 RBIs. He had 19 stolen bases in 29 attempts.

McKinney, 21, was hitting .252 with one home run, 12 doubles and three triples in 88 games for Double-A Tennessee this season. He is a former first-round draft pick.

Warren, 28, is returning to the Yankees, with whom he began his major league career before being traded to the Cubs during the offseason for Starlin Castro. Warren was 3-2 with a 5.91 ERA in 29 appearances with the Cubs, including one start.

Crawford, 22, was the Cubs' 11th-round draft pick in 2012. He was hitting .255 with three homers, eight triples and 30 RBIs in 83 games with Myrtle Beach.

## Rio

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sion of the Australian Olympic team. "It's looking like, according to our plan, we will be able to move everybody in on Wednesday."

Chiller said that her team had identified some 200 problems with the accommodation at the weekend but that was now down to single figures.

She said the Australian team had paid the initial cleaning costs to make its accommodation habitable and had not yet discussed with organizers whether that money would be reimbursed.

Rio's outspoken Mayor Eduardo Paes pledged to fix the problems but had appeared to make light of the Australians' complaints by saying he would place a kangaroo in front of their accommodation to make them feel at home.

"The mayor and I have a date on Wednesday and I believe there will be a ceremonial handing over of the keys.



KAI PFAFFENBACH | REUTERS  
Women pose in front of Olympic rings on Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro, less than two weeks before the start of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games,

I have arranged a little present for the mayor as well," Chiller said.

"For the past two years I have been saying that this is one of the best of the villages of the six that I have ever

been in and I still say that it will be the best village that I have ever been in once these issues are complete."

The head of Argentina's Olympic Committee, Gerardo Werthein, said on Monday

that it had reserved accommodation outside the Olympic Village for part of its delegation due to problems with the completion of its five floors in the apartment blocks housing athletes.

## Manning

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backer James Harrison and free-agent defensive lineman Mike Neal — were named in the documentary, and the league has said

they must submit to interviews. In a signed affidavit, Harrison denied ever meeting Sly and said he's never violated the league's policy on performance-enhancing drugs.

In a statement, the NFL Players' Association issued a statement saying it has no

control over Manning's cooperation with the league investigation as a retired player. The NFLPA is fighting the league's request to interview the other four players.

"As a former player, Peyton Manning is free to do whatever he believes is in

his best interest," the statement read. "The Union knows that he understands the rights of players under the Collective Bargaining Agreement and would never do anything to hurt or undermine active players in support of those rights."

## Jordan

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which will allow us to deepen our engagement on the issue of policing reform at this critical time in our country."

Jordan was realistic that \$2 million is just a drop in the bucket, but maybe his effort will kick-start others to do the same.

"Although I know these contributions alone are not enough to solve the problem, I hope the resources

will help both organizations make a positive difference," Jordan wrote.

Even though Jordan has been criticized and reticent to speak out or against other social issues, his voice was heard loud and clear when it came to Donald Sterling, the former owner of the Los Angeles Clippers.

"As an owner, I'm obviously disgusted that a fellow team owner could hold such sickening and offensive views. ... As a former player, I'm completely outraged," Jordan said at the time.