

Camillus native John Clare scored his first professional career victory at the Golf Max/Golf Pride Central New York Open May 14 at Corning Country Club. This is Clare's second CNY Open title as he also won the event in 2015 as an amateur.

Clare, who turning professional after graduating Le Moyne College last spring, shot rounds of 69 and 70 in the morning and afternoon rounds, respectively, to finish at 1-under-par for a 139.

The Golf Max/Golf Pride CNY Open, which is open to amateurs, is the first major of the season for Central New York PGA players.

Clare earned a paycheck of \$1,400 for the win from a total purse of \$\$8,715.

"It feels really good to win," Clare said "It's a tournament I like to play in. I love the 36 holes in one day format and I like the competition."

Clare earned the win by finishing one stroke ahead of Cazenovia Country Club's Mark Tucker (72-68—140).

Nick Serafino (Cavalry Club) shot a 2-under-par 68 to lead all players after the morning round with Clare one shot back at 1-under 69. But Serafino carded four bogeys against two birdies on his first 11 holes in the afternoon round which allowed Clare move into the lead.

Clare gained additional momentum on the back nine in the afternoon with back-to-back birdies on the par-5 14<sup>th</sup> and par-3 15<sup>th</sup> holes which gave him a three-stroke lead.

Tucker, playing in the group ahead of Clare, went 2-under on the front nine but finished even-par on the back for a 68. Clare hung on for his first pro win despite carding a bogey on his last two holes.

"I did a good job of not paying attention to what anyone else was doing," Clare said. "I stayed in my own little bubble, stayed patient and stuck to the game plan."

Alan Savage (Turning Stone) finished third at 1-over 141. First-round leader Serafino and Joe Norman (Elmira CC) finished tied for fourth at 2-over 142.

Defending champion and two-time winner Dennis Colligan (Cazenovia Golf Club) finished in a tie for sixth place at 3-over 143.

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