

Eric Manning won the Central New York PGA Championship for the fourth time in his career Aug. 21 at Teugega Country Club in Rome. The tournament, the only triple point major of the season, was presented By Club Car, Mercedes-Benz, and Omega.

With a birdie on 18, Manning (Elm Tree Golf Club) closed with a 69 for a one-stroke victory over first round leader Mark Tucker (Cazenovia Country Club). Tucker had a chance to force a playoff but missed an eagle putt on 18.

“Mark and I have been battling for a long time,” Manning said. “I saw the scoreboard and knew what I needed to do. I was disappointed I didn’t get something going sooner. But I saw Mark made a bogey (on 16). When I stood up on 18, I thought if I make birdie then he’ll have to make eagle to catch me. And I was lucky enough to get it done.”

Manning, who carded a 67 in the first round, finished at 6-under-par 136 overall to win the tournament and \$3,650. He also captured the title in 2012, 2006 and 2005. This was just the second Section event of the season for Manning.

“This is great,” Manning said. “I came here not expecting anything. I haven’t really played in anything else all summer. I played really good yesterday and played really good today except I just didn’t make any putts. But I kept making pars. I hung in there and I did what I needed to do to get it done.”

Both Manning and Tucker exchanged or shared the lead on the back nine until Manning took the lead for good after a Tucker bogey on the par-4 16th hole. Manning, who played in the group ahead of Tucker, had solid performance in the final round, scored 16 pars, no bogeys and two birdies including the deciding one on 18.

Tucker shot a 66 in the first round but had an up and down second round. He carded six bogeys to go with six birdies for an even-par 71 in the final round (137 overall). Tucker was looking for his first CNY PGA Professional Championship title since 2011.

The top four finishers qualified to participate in the 53rd PGA Professional Championship on April 28-May 1, 2019 at Belfair of Bluffton, SC. Earning a berth were Manning, Tucker, Dennis Colligan (Cazenovia Golf Club) and Rick Bronson (Bronson Aerifying).

Colligan, the two-time defending champion, finished at 2-under 140 after shooting 70 two straight days. Bronson, who won the Section Senior Championship in July at Teugega, carded a 1-under 141 (69-72).

In other tournament highlights, Alan Savage (Turning Stone Resort Casino) recorded a hole in one on the 164-yard 16th hole. Alex Smith was the final round medalist with a 3-under 68. He finished ninth.