

MOLTER WINS ASSISTANT CHAMPIONSHIP AT TURNING STONE

Dan Molter achieved a season-long goal by winning the National Car Rental Central New York PGA Assistant Championship on Aug. 31 at Turning Stone Casino Resort.

Molter (Binghamton Country Club) separated himself from the field with a 7-under-par 65 in the morning session at Shenendoah Golf Club en route to a four stroke victory over Brett Robertson (Timber Banks Golf Club). Molter's 7-under-par was a career best.

The 25-year-old Le Moyne College graduate finished with a 5-over 77 in the afternoon round at Kaluhyat Golf Club for an overall total of 2-under 142.

"It feels good to capture this," Molter said. "That was the main goal of the year for me to win this title. It hasn't fully hit me yet but it feels great. A lot of hard work paid off."

Robertson had rounds of 70 and 76 to finish at 2-over 146. He earned \$900 for second.

With the victory, Molter cashed \$1,125 and secured a berth to play in the 42nd National Car Rental Assistant PGA Professional Championship November 15-18 at PGA Golf Club's Wanamaker Course in Port St. Lucie, Fla. Robertson will be the Section's alternate.

Molter has had a strong season leading up to the Assistant Championship. He tied for first in the Binghamton CC Pro-Am last week and he finished second in the CNY PGA's Emmett Kelly Masters at Cavalry Club on Aug. 13.

"August is when my game starts peaking," Molter said. "I've put a lot of hard work going in. It feels good to play well."

Molter's 65 on Shenendoah featured an eagle on the par-5 No. 10, six birdies and one bogey. Staked to a four-shot lead in the first round, Molter maintained comfortable cushion while playing on the challenging Kaluhyat course.

"This morning was weird to be 7-under and knowing I had 18 more holes, it was really hard to stay focused," Molter said. "It was interesting because teeing it up I had nerves like I was down one or tied for the lead. I've never been in that spot before. It took me a while to calm down. But when my lead was up to seven shots I felt I could breathe."

Three-time defending champion Ryan McGinnis (Turning Stone Resort Casino) and Dante Migliore (Oneida Community Golf Club) finished tied for third at 5-over 149.