Chris Kirk Sets Record, Wins Title

Contributed by Trenten Hilburn
Tuesday, 21 November 2006
Last Updated Tuesday, 21 November 2006

Kirk Wins In Record Fashion

EL PASO, Texas (November 21, 2006) — After finishing second in El Paso in 2005, Chris Kirk was on a mission in 2006. Kirk, a senior from Georgia, carded rounds of 65, 66 and 64 to set a new 54-hole tournament record of 195 and take medalist honors at the 32nd Annual Western Refining College All-America Golf Classic on Tuesday at the El Paso Country Club.

Kirk Dominates Final Round To Take Title At The

Western Refining College All-America Golf Classic

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Kirk, who becomes the first Georgia Bulldog to win the Golf Classic, eclipsed the scoring mark set by Arizona’s Ricky Barnes (196) in 2000 and later tied by Arizona’s Chris Nallen in 2003. He also tied the tournament record for the best closing 36-hole performance in tournament history. His 130 total tied the mark set by UNLV’s Jeremy Anderson in 1998 and later tied by Nallen in 2003. Kirk also closed with a 130 last season to finish second to eventual champion Luke List of Vanderbilt.

List began the day as the leader after two rounds. He had extended his lead to three strokes at 15-under par to start the day on Tuesday, but four bogeys and a double bogey prior to the turn gave Kirk the window he needed.

Florida’s Billy Horschel finished second at 13-under and List was third at 11-under par. But neither could contend with Kirk, who made the turn at one-under for the day. Kirk then carded three birdies and an eagle over the next five holes and took control of the lead for good.

In all, the Southeastern Conference was represented by five of the top seven finishers in the tournament, including the top four spots. Georgia senior Brendon Todd finished tied for fourth and Kentucky’s Andy Winings closed out the tournament tied for seventh.

Despite watching both List and Horschel card rounds of 62 on Monday, Kirk closed with steady rounds in the mid-60s. Last year, he fell one stroke short of winning after firing rounds of 71, 63 and 67 for a 201. He now has a six round scoring average of 66.0 in two trips to El Paso.

In the final round, 21 players carded an even par or better on Monday. In all, the field set a new tournament scoring record, as the 28 golfers recorded an average round of 69.89, bettering the mark of 69.92 set in 2003.

The tournament, hosted by the Sun Bowl Association, is played at the Par-71, 6,837-yard El Paso Country Club.

Each university is awarded a $1,000 scholarship if a golfer from that school competes in the tournament.

Pl.
Player
School
1-2-3—Total
Par

1
Chris Kirk
Georgia
65-66-64—195
-18

2
Billy Horschel
Florida
71-62-67—200
-13

3
Luke List
Vanderbilt
62-68-72—202
-11

T4
Rhys Davies
East Tennessee State
68-69-68—205
-8

Brendon Todd
Georgia
69-68-68—205
-8

6
Jarred Texter
UNLV
68-70-68—206
-7

T7
Jamie Amoretti
St. Mary's (Texas)
70-68-69—207
-6

Pablo Martin
Oklahoma State
69-69-69—207
-6

Dusty Smith
Lamar University
72-69-66—207
-6

Niall Turner
Minnesota
71-69-67—207
-6

Martin Ureta
North Carolina
69-69-69—207
-6

Andy Winings

Kentucky
71-68-68—207
-6

T13
Russell Knox
Jacksonville
71-66-71—208
-5

Daniel Summerhays
Brigham Young
70-70-68—208
-5

15
Mark Haastrup
Georgia State
69-71-70—210
-3

16
Dawie Van Der Walt
Lamar University
69-69-73—211
-2

T17
Kevin Larsen
Georgia Tech
72-69-71—212
-1

Jonathan Moore
Oklahoma State
65-78-69—212
-1

T19
Travis Esway
Arizona
74-71-68—213
E

Erik Flores
UCLA
68-71-74—213
E

Brian Locke
Loyola Marymount
71-68-74—213

E

22
Cameron Tringale
Georgia Tech
77-67-70—214
1

T23
Jake Ellison
Brigham Young
71-72-72—215
2

Dustin Johnson
Coastal Carolina
75-67-73—215
2

25
Scott Stallings
Tennessee Tech
73-69-74—216
3

T26
Daniel Im
UCLA
71-76-70—217
4

T26
Alex Prugh
Washington
70-76-71—217
4

28
Zach Bixler
Washington
77-75-70—222
9