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# Fiedler takes another shot at Senior Open

By Bob Buttitta

Posted July 26, 2011 at 6:52 p.m.



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Jon Fiedler will be playing in the Senior U.S. Open. Fiedler, of Camarillo is a golf pro at Las Posas Country Club.

When it comes to performing at a high level to qualify for Champions Tour and PGA Tour events, few players can top the success that Las Posas Country Club teaching professional Jon Fiedler has had over the years.

On Thursday, the 58-year-old Fiedler will tee off in the first round of the 2011 Senior United States Open that will be played at Inverness Country Club in Toledo, Ohio. Fiedler qualified for this week's Open Championship by earning medalist honors at a qualifying tournament held June 27 at Saticoy Country Club.

Fiedler posted a score of 2-over 74, winning the event by two strokes.

Of the eight years that Fiedler has been eligible to qualify for a spot in the U.S. Senior Open, the Camarillo resident has accomplished the goal five times. And the qualifying

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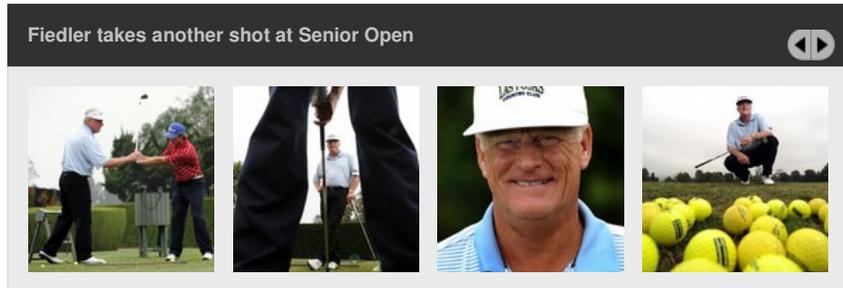
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success doesn't stop with the Senior Open.

The long time Las Posas pro has also earned a spot in the Senior PGA five times, including each of the last three years. Earlier this year he earned spots into the PGA Tour events at both Torrey Pines and Riviera Country Club.

He even qualified for a spot in the upcoming Soboba Classic, a Nationwide Tour event scheduled for Sept. 21-25 in San Jacinto.



While his qualifying record is beyond reproach, Fiedler is the first to admit that his performances in the actual tournaments have not nearly been as strong. His best finish in the nine senior majors that he has played in is a tie for 36th at the 2006 U.S. Senior Open played at Prairie Dunes Country Club in Kansas.

But Fiedler has made the cut in each of the last Senior Opens he has competed in, so his goals are much higher this week.

"I am looking to make some money and hopefully be in contention," Fiedler said during a practice session last week at Las Posas. "My game is in pretty good shape. I played pretty well at the qualifier at Saticoy which is a course that is very similar to what I expect to find at Inverness.

"I am really looking forward to the challenge of playing and seeing how my games stacks up at this point, It's great to qualify but now I really want to go and play well."

Because this isn't Fiedler's first time playing on this large a stage, the "awe factor" that might affect other players in his position does not apply to Fiedler.

Not only is this his tenth Champions Tour major, he also spent the 2007 season competing on the Champions Tour. So Fiedler knows what it's like to be in the same locker room or driving range with legends like Tom Watson, Bernhard Langer, and Jay Haas.

Fiedler said knowing what to expect during the week of a major championship allows him to better focus on preparing for the actual competition.

"It won't take me long to get acclimated when I get there," Fiedler said. "Knowing what to expect has helped me practice better, I have learned how to go to the practice range and treat it like I am out on the course. I imagine there are traps and water hazards and that forces me to try and hit certain shots and spots each time I swing.

"I will go through and change clubs after each shot, just like I do during a round. It's a lot of visualization, so when I do get out on the course I feel more prepared for what I need to do." Another advantage Fiedler has over most non-exempt qualifiers is the relationship he has with some of the big names on the Champions Tour. He's known Corey Pavin since the time he was living in the county, and expects to play nine holes with the former Ryder Cup captain today.

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				All
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2  GER	8	3	4	15
3  USA	7	5	11	23
4  RUS	6	9	7	22
5  NED	6	7	9	22
6  SUI	6	3	1	10
7  CAN	5	9	4	18
8  BLR	5	0	1	6
9  POL	4	0	0	4
10  FRA	3	2	6	11

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Fiedler learned the game at age 13 in Japan where his father Arthur was stationed in the Air Force. In only the seventh round of golf he ever played the young Fiedler shot an 86. So enthused was Fiedler that he played 63 holes in one day once in the rain while living in Japan.

He went on to play collegiate golf at USC where he played with former PGA Tour players Craig Stadler and Scott Simpson. Fiedler did more than hold his own with his talented teammates. He earned All-American honors in 1974 and was name captain of the 1975 USC team.

Fiedler began his pursuit of playing golf professional in 1981 when he competed on the Asian professional tour. He returned home after one season having lost 40 pounds following a long bout with flu.

Fiedler had his share of ups and downs early in his playing days. In fact he quit golf and sold life insurance for about a year in the early 1980s after failing to gain his tour card.

"I just got tired of qualifying for (PGA) tournaments and not making the cut," he said.

He returned to Las Posas where he first worked as an assistant pro in 1978. Fiedler became head pro at Las Posas in 1992 when the late Bruce Hamilton became director of golf. When Hamilton left for Spanish Hills, Fiedler took over as director of golf at Las Posas, a position he held until leaving to play on the Champions Tour in 2007.

Fiedler played just the one season on the Champions Tour. He has gone through qualifying school a few times since, but came up a little short.

These days, his focus is on teaching, something he has always enjoyed. He still has the club's blessing to go play, which he does a lot in PGA sectional events.

"I'm still able to play at a high level, so I figure I might as well do it until I can't," Fiedler said. "I don't feel old and competing is just something that's in my blood."

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Community programs, including religious and nonprofit organizations, will be discussed as a way to resolve access issues for veterans who need care.

Mental disorders were diagnosed in more than half (55.3 percent) of veterans who sought health care through the Veterans Administration

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