



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2011

Red Tail Ready For ECI

DEVENS, Mass. – While the weather in the Northeast has yet to cooperate, players, fans, officials and Red Tail Golf Club in central Massachusetts are certainly ready to go for next week's ECI. Devens is set to host top players from around the country for the eighth year in a row and the tournament, entering its ninth year, is showing no signs of changing venues for the 10-year anniversary in 2012.

"They have been so good to us over the years," said Co-tournament chairman Marc Zirolli in his state of the ECI address last week from The Fours Restaurant in downtown Boston. "It's such a great venue to host our championship. The fans love coming out, and the players really enjoy the golf."

Red Tail superintendent Pat Lange is pleased with the way the course conditions have been improving throughout the spring despite the weather.

"It's been cold, so aesthetically the golf course doesn't look as pretty and in full bloom as it usually does this time of year, but we've had some rain, so the greens and fairways are pretty lush. Our staff is working hard to get the golf course ready for another ECI."

As always, a number of players come in looking to win this coveted title. Brian Gill rebounded from a tough start to make three birdies on the back nine last year en route to the 2-over par championship crown. Gill feels confident he's going to play well next weekend.

"You try and peak for the big events," said Gill via a phone interview last week from his home in Connecticut. "I've been working hard this Spring to peak for a number of important golf tournaments in the coming weeks." Gill starts with the ECI on Sunday, then will play in the CT PGA Assistants Championship in June, and will hope to qualify for the Travelers Championship after the US Open.

"This golf course is a great test for major championship golf. I love the shots you have to hit here."

Nick Turczak and John Dailey return in hopes of another ECI title, while others like Ken Tessier, Alex Lawner, Matt Gajda, Matt Barnes, and Justin McLear have been close in the past, and would desperately love a win. Many call Tessier the best player in the field without a title. Ken tries to ignore those claims.

"You can't think about that kind of stuff when you're out here," says Tessier. "If you do, you're going to be in big trouble. I just need to go play my own game next weekend."

ECI rookie Jerry Miceli received a sponsor's exemption this year and hopes to make the best of his appearance. The Paul Casey look-a-like is a solid player with tons of length and consistency off the tee. ECI Week kicks off today, including a slew of events for fans and players that run through Saturday. Be sure to visit the kids clinic this afternoon at Essex County Club in Manchester-By-The-Sea to see stars Pete Woodward and Jeff Barnhart!



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Players to Watch

Brian Gill:

The clear cut favorite on paper, but always difficult to win three in a row.

Ken Tessier:

The Colin Montgomery of the ECI! Can Tessier finally break through this week like he broke through Deb Swanton's vagina back at Endicott??

Nick Turczak:

After winning three consecutive championships from 2005-2007, you have to wonder if Turczak is eager to return to the winner's circle.

Justin McLear:

McLear took a sabbatical down to North Carolina last week to get away from some of the media attention in the Boston area surrounding the ECI and worked hard on his game. He looks to improve on his best finish last year tying for fifth with a round of 80.

Matt Barnes:

Back after a year off, Barnes is another solid player without a title on his resume. Barnes said he's rededicated himself to the game of golf and feels that he can compete this weekend.

Matt Davis:

Unfortunately was flushed down a toilet out in Colorado. An Amber Alert has been posted! If you see this face, please call 1-800-toilet-flushers!!!





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Alex Lawner:

Lawner played fantastic in 2010 finishing in second place alone with a round of 76. Can he back it up in 2011?

Carl Bean: is back! The bad boy of the ECI was cleared on charges of child pornography and excessive drinking last Fall. With a fresh outlook of life, don't be surprised if Bean plays well this weekend.

Kenny Dargon:

Dargon is nearing his 10-year anniversary of winning the first ECI. Can he make the magic happen just one year earlier in 2011?

Marc Zirolli:

Once again, Zirolli is playing some great golf early. After firing rounds of 90 and 92 at the CT Match Play Challenge, he rebounded with an 83 at the Don DeLeon Invitational last Friday at Chicopee Country Club with a back-nine 37. Zirolli has also dropped 10 pounds in the off-season thanks to a strict diet and some working out. If Zirolli can keep the big number out of play, he could be a factor on the second nine come Sunday.



Craig Roderick:

Back after a steroid suspension last year, the big beefcake claims he too is in his best golf shape ever, and hopes to get into the mix on Sunday. Roderick, shown above, posed for Men's Health for an ECI photo shoot special back in March.

John Dailey:

Dailey fired a 1-under par 71 in the championship match of the CT Match Play Challenge to defeat brother, Colin 5&3 two weeks back. He hopes to rebound from a round of 80 back in 2010 and return to the winner's circle.

Pete Woodward:

The always dangerous lefty is back once again for another ECI. If Woodward can control his bladder; and hatred for Big Dick Wylie this weekend, he could be a challenger come Sunday afternoon.

Josh Clark:

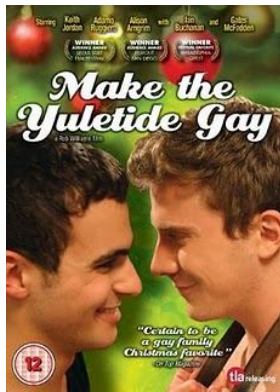
Gone Missing...



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Derek Sharon:

Sharon is excited about another chance at the ECI, but claims too much time with Dargon this off season may have negatively affected his game, as seen below, from their Christmas card.



Matt Gajda:

Gajda is gaining on an ECI. His length and consistency off the tee makes him a player to watch in this year's championship.

Tim Byram:

Byram is back after another successful ass-watching season from the volleyball bench at Endicooooocaaawwwttttt College. His team captured yet another CCC conference championship, and he looks to add the ECI to his resume!

Jerry Miceli:

The ECI rookie is an instant contender, but can he navigate his way around a tricky Red Tail Golf Club this weekend?

Jeff Barnhart:

The New York State transplant has been idle from the ECI the last few years. But his narrow stance and fluid-like swing can put him in contention late in the day.