Turczak with a Full Head of Steam Heading into 15th ECI

DEVENS, Mass. – Nick Turczak has plenty of Endicott College Invitational titles to his credit, five in fact, but he's feeling pretty good heading into the 15th edition looking for a three-peat. Turczak survived two playoffs the last two years to win back to back titles and is looking for more this weekend. "Like everyone else living up in New England, playing lots of golf in the spring isn't all that easy with the unpredictable weather, but I'm feeling good about my game and where things are in my life, so I'm looking forward to another fun tournament," said Turczak at last week's media day at Margaritas Grill in Waltham. Turczak welcomed a baby boy in the off-season. Other players looking to take him down are Brian Gill, who let a three shot lead get away late last year before losing in a playoff, John Dailey who is going for his 5th ECI, Justin McLear who's been working hard on his game to win his second title, and Ken Tessier, who is still searching for that elusive first championship. Tessier feels ready to go for Saturday. "I need to treat this like any other event," said Tessier from his home in Savannah, Ga., last week. "I can't get wrapped up in the end result, I just need to stick with the process." Tournament chairman Marc Ziriolli expects another great championship with weather conditions looking good for the weekend. "When we moved the championship back to late May a few years ago, it was the best decision we made," said Commissioner Zirolli via conference call from Hartford, Conn., last week. "The weather seems to break this time every year, so hopefully we have that same result this weekend." Jeff Barnhart accepted a sponsors' invite this past week, while Pete Woodward has been awarded a major medical extension by the ECI committee and will make his first appearance since 2014.

Players to Watch

Brian Gill:

Gill seeking redemption from a year ago

Nick Turczak:

Turczak going for the three-peat!

Justin McLear:

Is McLear poised to break through for another title? A 86 a year ago set him back, but a recent trip out West to sharpen up his game has him feeling confident.

Ken Dargon:

The inaugural winner is looking to find the winner's circle again

Marc Zirolli:

Zirolli received a "commissioner's exemption" once again this year after failing to find the top 10 for the 5th year in a row in 2016

John Dailey:

Looking to get back into the winner's circle

Ken Tessier:

The best player never to win an ECI, what a story it would be if Tessier can break through on the 15h anniversary!

Josh Clark:

Clark would like nothing more than to get into the hunt this weekend

Derek Sharon:

Could be a sleeper pick.

Pete Woodward:

Woodward is finally healthy and looking to compete this weekend

Jeff Barnhart:

Barnhart back for another year. Once a collegiate stalwart, Barnhart is looking to get into the mix this weekend

Carl Bean:

Bean is back, fresh off a wedding, and feeling ready to go!