

Turczak Takes the Title!

DEVENS, Mass. – If you got a chance to chat with Nick Turczak at media day before the 15th edition of the ECI in early May, you would most likely be under the impression he wasn't coming in fully ready to defend his ECI title from 2016. Well, you thought wrong. Turczak got off a fast start with 3 birdies in his first 6 holes to jump out to an early lead, faltered a bit on the back nine, but hung tough to win his third straight championship. "I had an out of body experience in those first six holes," said Turczak after the round. "I made everything I looked at."

Turczak made the turn shooting 1-under par 35 and had a three-shot lead on the likes of Ken Tessier and Justin McLear, but bogeys at 10, 11, and 14 let other players back in the mix. McLear birdied #10 to erase the 3-shot lead quickly, and was 1-shot back on the 18th hole, but a lost tee shot ruined his chances on the 18th hole. "I'm very disappointed," said McLear after the round. "I played pretty solid all day, had a chance on 18 and coughed it up."

Meanwhile, Ken Tessier finished third with a round of 77. This was Tessier's sixth top 5 finish in 15 years of the ECI. "Another year, another close finish. I'm getting there though. I thought I played fairly solid today." Past champions John Dailey and Brian Gill faltered early and ruined any chances of winning another ECI. Dailey triple bogeyed the 1st hole en route to a 78, while Gill was 5-over par through 6 holes and never got anything going.

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