

Amateur Story written by Matt Vereen KOLR

BRAD NURSKI GUNNING FOR HIS THIRD MISSOURI AMATEUR TITLE IN A ROW AND FOURTH OVERALL.

BUT STANDING IN HIS WAY WAS WALKER KESTERSON HOPING FOR THE BIGGEST MOMENT OF HIS YOUNG CAREER.

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BUT THE FINAL MATCH OF THE BRACKET WOULD HAVE TO WAIT A BIT TO GET GOING.

WHAT WAS ORIGINALLY A 36-HOLE ROUND WITH A 9:00 TEE TIME WAS PUSHED WAY BACK FROM RAIN.

INSTEAD A 2:00 TEE OFF AND JUST 18 HOLES.

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HOLE 13, NURSKI UP ONE.

BUT KESTERSON WITH A LONG PUTT TO SECURE A TWO PUTT PAR AND A CHANCE TO TIE THIS ONE BACK UP.

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PRESSURE ON NURSKI TO DEFEND THE LEAD, AND HE CLIPS THE HOLE FOR A BOGEY TO BRING THE MATCH BACK TO EVEN.

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THEY BOTH SPLIT ON 14 AND 15, BUT KESTERSON IN TROUBLE ON 16.

A LONG PAR PUT TRAILS RIGHT OF THE CUP, LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN FOR NURSKI.

AND THIS TIME HE TUCKS IT AWAY FOR PAR AND A ONE HOLE LEAD.

JUST TWO HOLES STANDING BETWEEN HIM AND AN HISTORIC WIN.

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BUT ON THE PAR 4 17TH, NURSKI'S APPROACH SHOT GOES WELL PAST THE HOLE.

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NEXT SHOT TRYING TO SAVE PAR, BUT THAT'S NOT GOING TO CUT IT.

THE LEAD SLIPS AWAY ON THE SECOND TO LAST HOLE SETTING UP A WINNER TAKE ALL 18TH.

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SO WITH HISTORY ON THE LINE, THIS TIME NURSKI PLANTS THE APPROACH SHOT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GREEN.

WHILE KESTERSON GOES OFF THE BACK RIGHT INTO THE ROUGH.

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THE YOUNGSTER NEEDING A MIRACLE TO HOIST THE TROPHY.

AND A MIRACLE IS EXACTLY WHAT HE FINDS.

AN INCREDIBLE CHIP-IN BIRDIE FOR THE ASHLAND NATIVE HAS EVEN HIM IN DISBELIEF.

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NURSKI STILL WITH A CHANCE TO FORCE A PLAYOFF, BUT THE PUTT GOES LEFT.

AND WALKER KESTERSON WINS THE 112TH MISSOURI AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP WITH A SHOT HE'LL NEVER FORGET BUT ALSO ONE HE STRUGGLES TO EVEN REMEMBER.

TAKE SOT

Missouri Amateur Champion Walker Kesterson: "I don't feel like I was trying to make it. I was trying to hit it close and make him make it. I don't really remember looking down at the golf ball. I looked up and it was kind of tracking and it hit the hole. You get lucky sometimes and that was a good time to get lucky. It's amazing to win this thing. I've been playing in it for years now. You kind of get to the round of eight, get to the round of four and it's like maybe. But to stand here after winning it is pretty incredible."

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