

June 4, 2007

U.S. Open Sectional Qualifier 'great opportunity' for Blue Raiders

Cochran, Narramore continue quest today

MT Media Relations

MEMPHIS, Tenn. - Middle Tennessee sophomore golfers **Rick Cochran** and **Chas Narramore** agree that a great opportunity lies ahead when they play in the U.S. Open Sectional Qualifier in Memphis Monday.

And their philosophy is the opportunity is a great one whether or not they are one of the 15 players in the 115-player field to advance into this year's 107th U.S. Open at the Oakmont Country Club in Oakmont, Pa.

Play will take place at the Colonial and Chickasaw Country Club Courses. There are 15 Sectional Qualifiers and the number of players to advance from each is based on size and quality of the playing field. Each Sectional is 36 holes in one day.

"At this age we are trying to learn how to play the game like the pros and playing in these types of tournaments helps you get to that point," Narramore said. "It's a great field with a bunch of pros so just to be in that field is important, whether you advance or not."

There is also the attitude that suggests when opportunity knocks one should answer, and Cochran and Narramore realize that only 36 holes stand between them and the dream of a lifetime. Well, 36 holes and a field full of Professional Golf Association players attempting to reach the same destination.

Players such as John Daley, Steve Elinkington, Bob Estes, Jeff Maggert, Bob May, Larry Mize, and Kirk Triplett, among others. In fact, Cochran will play in the same group as Triplett Monday morning.

"I told my dad (Rick) that I'm going to walk up to the first hole, extend my hand and say, 'Hello Mr. Triplett, how are you doing? Playing for second today?'," Cochran said jokingly. "Really, it is a great opportunity but at the same time I'm trying hard not to think about this being an Open Sectional qualifier a lot. Every time I do I get wrapped up in the moment because there are so many great golfers there. You always watch these guys playing golf on the tour and now I have a chance to play with them. You can't ignore it, it's there. You just have to not get star struck.

"It's a win-win situation. If I play well and get in the Open, then I'm in, but if I'm not then I'm learning from playing with these guys. No matter what happens I will learn from playing with Kirk Triplett."

Fifteen of the 105 players in the Memphis Sectional qualifier will advance. Cochran and Narramore are two of six amateurs in a field that includes 90 professionals seeking to qualify for one of professional golf's four majors.

Although the task will be daunting, Middle Tennessee golf coach Johnny Moore said he would not be shocked if one or both somehow emerged from the pack. Moore once qualified for the U.S. Senior Open.



Rick Cochran, left, and Chas Narramore will play in the U.S. Open Sectional Qualifier in Memphis Monday. (MT)

"It's a wonderful opportunity for both of these young men and it's something they will never forget, just where they are now," Moore said. "They are going to be out there Monday playing with guys who have won on the Tour several times over, and you try not to get caught up in it, but it's hard early, especially for those young guys. If they can get into playing early Monday and just focus on their game and what they are trying to do, Chas and Rick are both solid players. I wouldn't be surprised at all if they played well enough to advance, but they know it's not going to be easy."

U.S. Open Sectional Qualifying
Memphis, Tenn., June 4
Colonial C.C., Chickasaw C.C.
15 places available*

Stephen Allan, Australia
 Brandon Aydlett, Baton Rouge, La.
 Briny Baird, Jupiter, Fla.
 Pete Baratti, Marion, Ark.
 Nicholas Becker, Boise, Idaho
 Cameron Beckman, San Antonio, Texas
 Ryan Blaum, Coral Gables, Fla.
 David Branshaw, Oswego, N.Y.
 D.J. Brigman, Albuquerque, N.M.
 Mark Brooks, Fort Worth, Texas
 Tom Byrum, Richmond, Texas
 Don Carpenter, Athens, Ga.
 Alex Cejka, Las Vegas, Nev.

Rick Cochran, Paducah, Ky.

Gavin Coles, Australia
 Andy Crain, Goldsboro, N.C.
 Ben Crane, Beaverton, Ore.
 John Daly, Memphis, Tenn.
 Robert Damron, Orlando, Fla.
 Brian Davis, Windermere, Fla.
 Glen Day, Little Rock, Ark.
 Brendon De Jonge, Charlotte, N.C.
 Jay Delsing, Chesterfield, Mo.
 Joseph Deraney, Thomasville, Ga.
 Bubba Dickerson, Fernandina Beach, Fla.
 Karl Diewock, Fayetteville, Ga.
 Billy Dressler, Lake Charles, La.
 Brian Duncan, Greenville, S.C.
 Steve Elkington, Australia
 Bob Estes, Austin, Texas
 David Faught, Jonesboro, Ark.
 Scott Feaster, Columbia, S.C.
 Dan Forsman, Provo, Utah
 Brett Foulds, Escondido, Calif.
 Philip Francis, Scottsdale, Ariz.
 Robert Garrigus, Scottsdale, Ariz.
 Brian Gay, Windermere, Fla.
 Brent Geiberger, Palm Desert, Calif.
 Mathew Goggin, Australia
 David Gossett, Austin, Texas
 Jeff Gove, Seattle, Wash.

Paul Gow, Australia
Paul Goydos, Dove Canyon, Calif.
Danny Green, Jackson, Tenn.
Mathias Gronberg, Palm Beach, Fla.
Adam Hart, Blythewood, S.C.
Dudley Hart, Buffalo, N.Y.
Luke Hart, Blythewood, S.C.
J.P. Hayes, El Paso, Texas
Will Hogan, Ozark, Mo.
John Huston, Innisbrook, Fla.
Tripp Isenhour, Orlando, Fla.
Tim Jackson, Germantown, Tenn.
Brett Jones, Paducah, Ky.
Kent Jones, Albuquerque, N.M.
Grover Justice, Lexington, Ky.
Corbin King, Round Rock, Texas
Samuel Korbe, Springdale, Ark.
Cliff Kresge, Heathrow, Fla.
Hank Kuehne, Cleveland, Ohio
Andrew Lanahan, Baton Rouge, La.
Stephen Leaney, Australia
Trent Leon, Dallas, Texas
Tyler Leon, Dallas, Texas
Victor Leoni, Miami, Fla.
J.L. Lewis, Austin, Texas
John Lieber, San Diego, Calif.
Craig Lile, South Africa
Steve Lowery, Birmingham, Ala.
Jarrod Lyle, Australia
Jeff Maggert, Houston, Texas
Daisuke Maruyama, Japan
Grant Masson, Little Rock, Ark.
Bob May, Las Vegas, Nev.
Bruce McDonald, Zimbabwe
John Merrick, Long Beach, Calif.
Larry Mize, Columbus, Ga.
Bryce Molder, Conway, Ark.
Aaron Moreno, Mesa, Ariz.
Alan Morin, Royal Palm Beach, Fla.
Jonathan Mount, Kingston, Tenn.
Chas Narramore, Kingston, Tenn.
Joe Ogilvie, Bee Cave, Texas
Josh Oller, Jackson, Miss.
David Peoples, Orlando, Fla.
Rod Perry, New Smyrna Beach, Fla.
Tim Petrovic, Tampa, Fla.
Andrew Pratt, Knoxville, Tenn.
Dicky Pride, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Patrick Reed, Baton Rouge, La.
Taggart Ridings, Westlake, Texas
Chris Riley, Las Vegas, Nev.
Todd Rossetti, Dallas, Texas
James Rutledge, Canada

Seth Sargent, Birmingham, Ala.
Jason Schultz, Dallas, Texas
Warren Schutte, South Africa
Paul Sheehan, Cleveland, Ohio
Michael Sim, Australia
Brandt Snedeker, Nashville, Tenn.
Adam Speirs, Canada
Paul Stankowski, Dallas, Texas
Darron Stiles, Pinhurst, N.C.
Chris Stroud, Sea Island, Ga.
Adam Swope, Wesley Chapel, Fla.
Nicholas Thompson, Coral Springs, Fla.
Kirk Triplett, Scottsdale, Ariz.
Garett Wagner, Brentwood, Calif.
Johnson Wagner, Charlotte, N.C.
Lucas Wald, Atkins, Ark.
Duffy Waldorf, Northridge, Calif.
Chris Wells, Baton Rouge, La.
Jon Whittaker, Springdale, Ark.
Charlie Wi, Korea

** - The number of qualifiers' places is determined by the USGA based on size and playing quality of the field.*

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