



10th Annual Big 12 Conference Men's Golf Championship

April 24-25, 2006; Southern Hills Country Club, Tulsa, Okla.

DAY TWO NOTES & QUOTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006

Notes

Champions. **Oklahoma** had been a bridesmaid the last five years, but after three runner-up (2001, 2004, 2005) and two third place (2002, 2003) finishes, the Sooners won their first Big 12 Championship in claiming the 2006 honor... It is Oklahoma's first conference title since winning the Big Eight in 1992, and just the second since it won the last Big Seven meet in 1957... Texas' **Matthew Rosenfeld** won his second collegiate tournament, as his 210 total (final round 71), becoming the third Longhorn to claim Big 12 medalist honors (joining David Gossett in 1999 and Jason Hartwick in 2004).

Defending Champions. While two new champions were crowned, those trying to defend had their moments. **Oklahoma State**, last year's winner by nine strokes at Whispering Pines (Trinity, Texas), countered an opening 299 with a 288 and 289 and moved from 10th into fourth. OU's **Anthony Kim**, who was 9-over par through 36 holes, helped his team to the title by being an anchor in the final round, firing the Sooners best score at 1-under 69. He finished 13th overall with a 218 score.

Weather. The temperature when the second round resumed at 10 a.m. was 50 degrees, 23 degrees cooler than the previous day. It remained cool and breezy most of the day, the temperature reaching just 54 with winds gusting to 16 miles per hour and the sun only occasionally peeking through cloud cover. Play was not suspended Tuesday as was the case twice Monday, the second time ceasing competition and forcing completion of the second round over two days.

Best/Worst. Oklahoma State and Texas have now finished in the top six ("first division") in all 10 Big 12 title meets, while Oklahoma has done it eight times and Texas A & M six (joining Colorado and Kansas). Joining OU with their best team finishes in the Big 12 meet were Texas A&M (third; they were fourth in 2003), Texas Tech (fourth place tie; fifth twice previously).

Big Improvement. Colorado redshirt freshman **Derek Tolan** had the best improvement from the first round to the next, as he bounced back from a 13-over 83 to post a 1-over 71, with the 12-shot difference tied for the 10th best in Big 12 Championship history. His 71 tied for the second lowest score on the back end of that accomplishment, topped only by a 70 by Texas' **John Klauk** in 2001 (after he opened with an 87 to set the all-time improvement mark at 17 from one round to the next). Tolan is the ThunderRidge High School (Highlands Ranch, Colo.) who played in the 2002 U.S. Open as a 16-year old.

The Course Won... Again. The average score in this tournament was 74.27 (74.13 for the first and third rounds, 74.57 for the second); there were just 11 scores in the 60s (by 11 different players, and well above the two scored in 2003 Big 12's here), and 13 times par was matched.

Tournament Records. A roll call of records set or tied in these 10th annual championships:

—Oklahoma had all five players in the top 20, the third time that has happened; the Sooners did it in 2003 right here at Southern Hills, and Colorado did it in 2001 at Prairie Dunes. All five Sooners were 14th or better, besting CU's quintet in the top 16 in '01; the five OU players were in the top 18 three years ago.

—Oklahoma and Texas both posted 285 scores in the first round, tying the mark for low gross score after one round.

—The 52 strokes that separated first through 12th were the fewest in tournament history, besting the old mark of 54 in 2003, thus making the two Southern Hills meets the two closest from top to bottom in league annals.

—The top six spots were represented by players from six different schools, a Big 12 Championship first (old mark: four).

All-Tournament Team (top 10): Matthew Rosenfeld (Texas), Brodie Flanders (Oklahoma), Pablo Martin (Oklahoma State), Edward McGlasson (Colorado), Andrew Dresser (Texas Tech), Robert Gates (Texas A&M), Jeff Bell (Texas), Gary Woodland (Kansas), Shawn LaFontaine (Oklahoma), Matt Mills (Texas).

Future Sites. The 11th Annual Big 12 Championships in 2007 will be return to **Prairie Dunes Golf Club** (Hutchinson, Kan.), with the dates already set for April 23-24. The 2008 championship will take place at **Whispering Pines Golf Club** (Trinity, Texas), site of the 2005 affair. That year the conference will experiment with a new format, one that will expand the tournament to 72 holes with a 36-18-18 format over three days; the dates for '08 have not been finalized.

First Round Leaders	Oklahoma & Texas	285	Brady Schnell, NU (<i>by 1</i>)	68
Second Round Leaders	Texas (<i>by 2</i>)	572	Jeff Bell, UT & Gary Woodland, KU	140



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Jim Ragan, Oklahoma Head Coach

"Southern Hills is a great venue and just an awesome place to have a championship. To be able to come down here and win, we are very fortunate. There are a lot of great teams in this field, so to pull it off, I was really proud of them. They were able to hang in there and stick it out for the win."

"This was a great team effort. A lot of people say golf isn't a team sport, but you see what happened here, everyone pulled together and kept grinding things out. In the end, we were rewarded for that effort and it's something a lot of people are sharing in."

"Brodie (Flanders, lefthander, finished second) has continued to play better all spring long. He is starting to play with some confidence. He has always been a very skilled player. It's just a matter of time before he kind of broke out of it and got some things going and he picked a good week to do it."

"It's nice. We've been close a lot of times. You always want to win it. You have to get up there and get in a position to do it and finally we did, and we did. It was a fun win for us this week. It's a little cool on the backside. I'm glad they didn't get the front side."

"We have progressively gotten a little bit better this spring. We didn't play very well in College Station last week and it was kind of a little bit of a wakeup call for us, I think. The guys really worked hard during that week that we had between that tournament and this one and it paid off. They made some nice adjustments and came out here and stuck with what they were working on and executed."

"There are some great teams in the Big 12 this year. I have never seen it so stacked; there were many teams here deserving of winning. We are just very, very fortunate to walk out of here. There are a lot of teams that could have been here in our same position, but we got fortunate and won it all."

"Everybody's score counted and they all did a nice job of showing up and playing well."

Brodie Flanders, Oklahoma

GENERAL—"I started kind of late to the game and whenever it was cold I never really played anyway. Coming down here, I kind of got spoiled and used to the warm weather, so it's cold out here still for me."

DID THE GOLF COURSE PLAY TO HIS STRENGTHS?—"I like to shape the ball left to right and a lot of the holes go the other way. I just tried to hit a fade pretty much off a lot of tees and it worked out this week because I played pretty well. I was pretty steady all around and I guess I made a birdie on 15 and then I got up and down out of a bunker on 16 for par and then that approach shot on 18 was good. I was pretty strong down the stretch."

ON WHO'S IDEA IT WAS TO GIVE COACH RAGAN A GATORADE BATH—"That was our prankster, Anthony. We haven't had a win since 2001. It's been awhile. This is my first team title and I'm a senior, so it's been awhile and it feels really good."

Matthew Rosenfeld, Texas (medalist)

GENERAL—"I told my family and my girlfriend that I might win the Big 12 this week. It's been such a long time between wins for me, and I've been playing so bad the entire year. I got a lesson 10 days ago (from Houston-based swing coach Jim Hardy), and he gave me a couple of simple swing thoughts and they really worked out. Under pressure here, I did what he told me to do, and that really helped me a lot. I have to give a lot of the thanks to him."

"I played solid all week long. I had some up and down points, but my ball striking really came around, especially the last nine holes. I was just fortunate to pull out a victory in a field where there were many others who could also have done so. The one thing that would have made this better would have been for our team to win the Big 12."