

Duff, Sui, at 5-under, Tied for St. Augustine Amateur Lead After 36 Holes

ELKTON, Florida, USA (December 7, 2024) – Jason Duff (Elkton, Fla., North Florida senior) and Justin Sui (Lake Orion, Mich.) both shot in the 60s on a cool, breezy and sunny Saturday to reach 5-under par and take the 36-hole lead in the St. Augustine Amateur at the St. Johns Golf Club.

They hold a one-stroke lead over Danny Erickson (Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., UNF redshirt freshman) at 4-under. Two back is first-round leader Carson Johnson (Signal Mountain, Tenn., Chattanooga senior) at 3-under, who finished with a double bogey on the par-5 18th Saturday after driving in the water and hitting his third shot in the same hazard. Tyler Gutierrez (Madison, Miss., high school junior) at 2-under is the youngest player on the leaderboard at age 17.

Brett Schell (St. Augustine, Fla., UNF graduate senior) and Filip Raza (Teplice, Czech Republic, Jacksonville University senior) are at 1-under and share a lengthy college career. Schell, a former Bartram Trail High School player, played four years at Ole Miss, sat out last season after shoulder surgery and is beginning his sixth year of eligibility next year at UNF. Raza also suffered a shoulder injury last year, underwent surgery back home in the Czech Republic and is playing his first competitive rounds since December 2023.

Saturday's second round was similarly difficult to Friday's first round. The field scoring average was 76.3 on Saturday and only seven players are under par entering Sunday's play.

For the leaders, it was a tale of being close to the history of the St. Augustine Amateur and far away from the competition, which began in 2004.

Duff, 23, grew up in a house adjacent to the landing area right of the first fairway at the St. Johns Golf Club and has followed the tournament his entire golf life. He is a fifth-year senior for the Ospreys. His two rounds have included six birdies and an eagle, alongside caddie and UNF teammate Chase Carroll, who happens to be college roommates with Erickson.

"It's always been one of my goals to win this tournament," said Duff, who is being followed by family, friends and neighbors this week. "It would be an honor to complete that on Sunday."

Sui (pronounced 'Swee') is a 20-year-old amateur who was an American Junior Golf Association all-star in 2020. However, when the Covid pandemic was in full force in 2021, his game suffered, and Sui didn't have the Division I college offers that he hoped for. So, Sui and his father Shane, who doubles as his caddie, opted to play a full amateur schedule of Michigan events in summer and Florida tournaments in winter. He found out about the St. Augustine Amateur a couple weeks ago.

"I decided to take my own path and it's worked out so far," said Sui, who has made 10 birdies and an eagle in 36 holes and had Saturday's low round (67). "I take mostly online courses at the

University of Florida and practice and play individually. It's a bit of a different way to play but I'm focused on that now."

The tournament's first two aces were scored on the par-3 eighth by Rollins junior Robert Greninger and Flagler College senior Joel Petersson.

Tee times for Sunday are scheduled from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., off both tees. The final threesome off No. 1 at 10:30 a.m., includes Duff, Sui and Erickson.

Notes:

Low rounds: Friday, Carson Johnson (66); Saturday, Justin Sui (67)

Birdies, Field: Round 1, 175; Round 2, 183
2023: Round 1, 268; Round 2, 263; Round 3, 229.

Eagles, Field: Round 1, 3; Round 2, 11
2023: Round 1, 8; Round 2, 9; Round 3, 8

Field's average score: Round 1, 77.12; Round 2, 76.36
2023: Round 1, 73.65; Round 2, 73.75; Round 3, 73.33. Total: 73.61

Hardest Hole: Round 2, No. 10, 4.78 stroke average; Cumulative, No. 7, 5.64 stroke average
2023 (cumulative): No. 9, 4.44 stroke average

Easiest Hole: Round 2, No. 11, 4.85 stroke average; Cumulative, No. 11, 4.91 stroke average
2023 (cumulative): No. 11, 4.54 stroke average

Results: www.staugustineamateur.com
<https://www.golfgenius.com/pages/10863149056654331005>

Player bios:
<https://staugustineamateur.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2024-StAug-Am-bios-final.pdf>