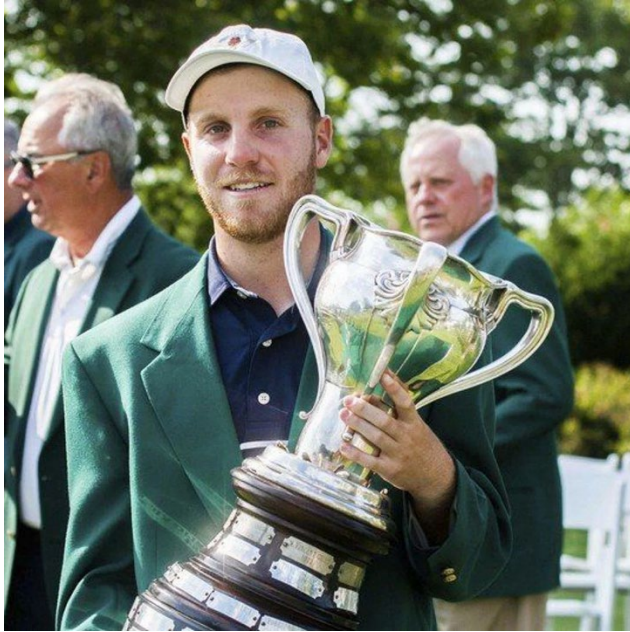


61st Porter Cup July 24th – 27th, 2019

Didone Fourth Australian to Win Porter Cup



DiDone Wins 61st Porter Cup

By Mark Gaughan

The treacherous, par-4 17th hole at Niagara Falls Country Club has a long history as a pivotal hole in deciding the Porter Cup.

For a while in the 1980s and 1990s, veteran competitors knew it as “the Napalm hole,” because that’s what Texas amateur golf great Randy Sonnier, a Porter Cup veteran, said he’d like to drop on it, due to its well-bunkered green complex and the threat of out of bounds on both sides of the fairway.

The 17th was the turning point of the 2019 Porter Cup, which saw Australian Aiden Didone go toe-to-toe with tournament favorite Chun An Yu in a back-and-forth final round. Didone taking command on the 17th. He made an 8-foot birdie putt while Yu missed a 3-footer for a three-putt bogey to decide the championship.

Didone shot a final-round 69 to complete four rounds in the 60s – 68-68-65-69 – and finish with a winning score of 10-under 270. The 21-year-old from Melbourne became the fourth Australian to win the championship.

"There was a lot of nerves there," Didone said of the 17th hole. "But I stuck to my pre-shot routine and what I know, and I was happy to sink that putt. I knew I had to make one birdie putt coming home."

Didone’s victory is even more impressive in retrospect. Yu entered the Porter Cup ranked No. 6 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking and was a quarterfinalist at the 2017 U.S. Amateur. He rose to No. 1 in the world just a year later. Yu made first-team All-America for Arizona State in 2019, played in three straight U.S. Open championships as an amateur and has enjoyed quick success as a professional on the Korn Ferry Tour.

Yu held a three-shot lead entering the final round but it evaporated in a flash, when he made double-bogey on the first to Didone’s birdie. After falling behind by three, Yu rallied with a string of birdies to pull back into a tie on the 15th hole.

“The wind was the biggest factor out here today,” Yu said. “Obviously, my tee shot was not really good today, so that cost me, a little bit. Overall, I think I played good. I just missed a couple shots.”

Lurking behind the final twosome all day was Florida State star John Pak, who also shot four rounds in the 60s and wound up tied with Yu for second at 8-under. Pak, as of 2022 a member of the Korn Ferry Tour, was a four-time All-America and a member of the U.S. Walker Cup teams in 2019 and 2021. As a college senior, he became the sixth gofer to sweep the three NCAA Division I player of the year awards – the Jack Nicklaus, Ben Hogan and Fred Haskins Awards.

Vanderbilt's Reid Davenport was fourth, four shots back, and 2017 U.S. Mid-Amateur champion Matt Parziale was in a group tied for fifth.

Didone joined Simon Nash (2002), Geoff Drakeford (2014) and Harrison Endycott (2016) as Australian champions at the Porter Cup.

[2019 Recap](#)