

Kingsville golfer shines at Canadian Open

BY JOHN GARINGER
SPECIAL TO THE
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This week, at the Canadian Open Golf Championship in Ancaster, Ont., Richard Scott proved he is ready to take the final step on his celebrated golf

journey to the PGA golf tour.

Scott, from the Kingsville Golf and Country Club, stormed through the junior golf ranks under the direction of club professional Doug Quick, winning many tournaments and capturing both the Ontario and Canadian juvenile championships in 2000. In June he earned an honorable mention on the 2006 PING All-America team for his play with the University of Georgia Bulldogs and two years earlier qualified in the 2004 USGA Amateur Championships.

Scott's greatest achievement to date, however, has been capturing three Canadian Men's Amateur Championships. He won in 2003, 2005 and 2006 and was a semi-finalist in 2004. His string of victories has led many to believe he will be a candidate for the RCGA Hall of Fame.

The Hamilton Golf and Country Club was the setting for this year's Open. The tournament was played there in 2003 and was so



Photo: RCGA/Graig Abel
Richard Scott finished the Canadian Open last weekend at 3-over-par.

popular with the pros the RCGA returned for this year's event. Known as a "traditional" golf course, it demands accuracy off the tee combined with pinpoint approach shots to very demanding greens—not a typical big hitter's favourite. Jim Furyk, this year's winner said he was looking for-

ward to the course after hearing reports from colleagues who played in 2003.

"When we heard on tour it was back in Hamilton we had to come up after all the raves in 2003," Furyk said.

The first two days set the stage, with the field being cut in half from 160 players for the weekend. It was then that Scott made his move. He led the field for two days in greens in regulation. His game demonstrated a stunning control off the tee and, with his iron play, he bested a field of PGA professionals for two days with his play from tee to green. Putting, however, was not his strong suit this week, and he was unable to convert a slew of eagle and birdie tries. Still, he made the cut handily, advancing to shoot par on Thursday and teamed up with Aaron Baddeley, also 2-under-par, on a windy Sunday. Scott stumbled a bit on the final day off the tee, shooting 75 and finishing the tournament with a commendable 3-over-par.

In his final press conference, Scott said he enjoyed

the tournament and felt his performance proved he could be competitive with professional players.

"It's been a great week," Scott said. "First, I had a great time. I always believed I could play at this level, now I know. Yes, I have to work at my putting and a few other things, but I learned so much and Aaron (Baddeley) was great, he gave me some good advice and helped me a lot. But now my main priorities are school and the World's."

Scott is a member of the Canadian World Amateur Team. He and Laura Matthews, also from Kingsville Golf and Country Club, will travel to South Africa this fall to represent Canada in this year's World Amateur Team Championships. Scott will graduate in December from Georgia and then prepare for the next step in his journey—probably the PGA Qualifying School in the fall. It should be a short journey for Richard Scott to the world of professional golf.

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SILVER MEDAL CHAMPIONS – The Essex Mosquito 'A' team captured the silver medal at the Ontario championships on Labour Day weekend. Undefeated until the final game, the Yellow Jackets came up short in the championship game against Port Dover, 6-5.

(L-R) Front row: Jonah Fuerth, Jeff Miller, Mitch Hudvagner, Riley Jones, Dalton Langlois, Mitch Salter. Second row: Chris Drouillard, Aaron Langlois, Mike Caille, Tino Iacobini, Brad Bedford, Justin Melo. Back row: coaches Cal Miller, Randy Langlois, Mike Hudvagner. Absent: Chris Drouillard.

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