

Area golfers hoping for a spot in U.S. Open

By [Craig Dolch](#)

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Tuesday, June 07, 2005

Bart Bryant's victory Sunday at the Memorial Tournament means he won't be among the 52 players vying for three spots in today's U.S. Open sectional qualifier at Old Memorial in Tampa. Nothing like getting rid of the only regular on the PGA Tour to improve everyone else's chances of making it into next week's U.S. Open at Pinehurst. Jupiter's Lee Rinker, the director of golf at Trump International, is trying to qualify for his fifth U.S. Open — and first since 1997. Palm Beach Gardens resident Robert Floyd, whose father, Raymond, won the 1986 U.S. Open at Shinecock Hills, hopes to earn his first trip to the national championship after several close calls. Robert Floyd says there's no secret formula to qualifying. "There used to be five or six spots at this sectional, so you knew if you played well, you'd get in," he said. "With only two or three, you can play really well, but if a couple of guys play exceptionally well, you may not make it." Another area notable trying to qualify is Boca Raton resident Ray Sheppard, the ex-Florida Panthers wing. Other area players entered are Brandon Smith of West Palm Beach, John Finlayson of Wellington and Brad McAfee of Boynton Beach. There were 13 U.S. Open sectional qualifiers Monday, 12 in the U.S. and the first to be held in England. Notable qualifiers included former Masters champion and Boca Raton resident Bernhard Langer, New Zealand's Michael Campbell and pros Scott McCarron, John Cook and Bob Tway. Mark Calcavecchia of West Palm Beach and Jesper Parnevik of Jupiter failed to qualify.

Fourteen qualify for junior: Neil Horsley of Cooper City shot five-under 67 to win the Boys Division in the Srixon qualifier for the Ping Junior at Mirasol. Stephanie Sherlock of Barrie, Ontario, shot two-under 70 to top the girls division. The event was played at the PGA National Resort & Spa's Haig Course in West Palm Beach. Twelve boys and two girls, including Madison Pressel of Boca Raton, qualified for the 84-player PING Junior, which begins Wednesday.

Stuart girl first: Maria Castellanos of Stuart claimed a six-shot victory in the girls 16-18 division of a Junior Players Tour event held during the weekend at West Palm Beach Country Club. Castellanos shot 75-74-149. Alexandra Bodemann of Palm City was second at 155 (73-82). In boys 16-18 play, Carl McCauley of Parkland shot 78-74-152 to edge Gabriel Costa of Tequesta by one stroke.