

**NORTHEAST  
AMATEUR**  
INVITATIONAL GOLF  
TOURNAMENT

# IN THE NEWS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> – SATURDAY, JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup> 2018

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 5, 2018

## **MORIKAWA LOOKS TO DEFEND HIS TITLE AT THE 57<sup>th</sup> NORTHEAST AMATEUR INVITATIONAL**

RUMFORD, R.I. – Welcome to the 57<sup>th</sup> Northeast Amateur Invitational golf tournament. This year's event will take place from June 20-23 at Wannamoisett C.C., a par-69, Donald Ross-designed course that continues to challenge the field every year. In 2017, Cal Berkeley's Collin Morikawa held off an elite field to capture one of the biggest wins of his impressive amateur career.

Tournament chairman Ben Tuthill has assembled a deep field that is highlighted by two Ping First Team All-Americans, Morikawa and USC's Justin Suh. Collin Morikawa looks to become only the 4<sup>th</sup> player to win back-to-back titles and join Luke Donald ('00-'01), Jay Sigel ('84-'85) John Cook ('78-'79) in Northeast Amateur history. Justin Suh won 5 times this year and was named PAC 12 Player of the Year along with being named a finalist for the Jack Nicklaus Award (College Player of the Year). The full field which has been released today includes 27 of the top 100, 60 of the top 200, and 80 of the top 500 players in the world according to the Scratch Players World Amateur rankings.

US Junior Am champ Noah Goodwin and US Mid Am champ Matt Parziale will be coming to the Northeast fresh off the US Open at Shinnecock Hills. Other USGA Champions in the field include 2017 US Four-ball Champs Frankie Capan (Alabama signee) and Ben Wong (SMU signee) and 2018 US Four-ball Champs Cole Hammer (Texas signee) and Garrett Barber (LSU signee) who were victorious at Jupiter Hills in May. 2016 US Mid-Am champion Stewart Hagestad, who was the Joe Sprague Sr. low mid-am last year and 2015 US Junior Am champ Philip Barbaree (LSU) will also be back.

This year's field includes five members of the US team and three members of the International team which will compete in the Arnold Palmer Cup at Evian Resort Golf Club in France, July 6-8. The US team includes S.M. Lee (Dalton State), Sahith Theegala (#20, Pepperdine), Stephen Franken (#42, NC State) along with Morikawa (#4) and Suh (#11). The International team includes K.K. Limbhasut (Cal- Thailand), Andy Zhang (#22, Florida- China) and Luis Gagne (#18, LSU- Costa Rica).

Some of the other top ranked players in the field include Brad Dalke (#13, Oklahoma), Philip Knowles (#31, North Florida), and Vanderbilt teammates Patrick Martin (#23), John Augenstein (#36) and Will Gordon (#37) will all be returning to make a run at the title. We are also excited to welcome a number of first timers to the Northeast this year led by freshman Brandon Mancheno (#33, Auburn) who recently finished runner up in the NCAA National Championship.

The local talent on tap includes RI Player of Year and New England Am champ Bobby Leopold, RI Amateur champ Billy Forcier, RI Stroke Play champ Tyler Cooke, 2016 RI Am champ and Notre Dame freshman standout Davis Chatfield, all current Wannamoisett members; Current and four time RI Junior champ Patrick Welch, four time RI Amateur champ Brad Valois, NJ State Am champ and First Team All-Region selection from URI Dawson Jones, CT Am Champ Rick Dowling, and US Mid Am Champ, Mass. Am Champ and Mass. Player of Year Matt Parziale.

The Northeast Amateur begins with a Sponsor/Contestant Tournament on Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. The tournament proper begins the next morning at 8 a.m. Please follow scoring updates on our web site [NortheastAmateur.com](http://NortheastAmateur.com) and find daily video updates from Don Coyne and daily news articles by Paul Kenyon at the site as well.