

**NORTHEAST
AMATEUR**
INVITATIONAL GOLF
TOURNAMENT

IN THE NEWS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20TH – SATURDAY, JUNE 23RD 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 17, 2018

MORIKAWA LOOKS TO DEFEND HIS TITLE AT THE 57th NORTHEAST AMATEUR INVITATIONAL

RUMFORD, R.I. – Welcome to the 57th 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 5th player to win back-to-back titles and join Luke Donald ('00-'01), Jay Sigel ('84-'85), John Cook ('78-'79) and Ronnie Quinn ('64-'65) 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 of 92 players includes 7 of the top 20, 30 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.

Eight players will be coming to the Northeast fresh off the US Open at Shinnecock Hills. Current US Mid Am champ Matt Parziale and Luis Gagne (LSU) tied for low am and Will Grimmer (Ohio State) made the cut, while US Junior Am champ Noah Goodwin (SMU), 2015 US Junior Am champ Philip Barbaree (LSU), 2016 US Mid-Am champ Stewart Hagestad, Jacob Bergeron (LSU), and Tyler Strafaci (Georgia Tech) all had strong showings on the biggest stage in golf.

The 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.

This year's field includes six 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 Brad Dalke (Oklahoma), S.M. Lee (Dalton State), Sahith Theegala (Pepperdine), Stephen Franken (NC State) along with Morikawa and Suh. The International team includes K.K. Limbhasut (Cal- Thailand), Andy Zhang (Florida- China) and Luis Gagne (LSU- Costa Rica).

Some of the other top ranked players in the field include Philip Knowles (North Florida) and Vanderbilt teammates John Augenstein, Will Gordon and Patrick Martin, who finished 2nd in 2016, all returning this year 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 All-American Brandon Mancheno (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 tournament begins Wednesday at 8 a.m. Please follow scoring updates on our web site NortheastAmateur.com and find daily video updates from Don Coyne and daily news articles by Paul Kenyon at the site as well.