

PAST CHAMPIONS OF THE BUFFALO DISTRICT MEN'S INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP



1921: Raymond J. McAuliffe (Buffalo GC) d. Parke Wright (CCB), 8&7, at Orchard Park.

- (McAuliffe was a public-course player at Delaware Park, went onto become pro at Erie Downs, later Bridgewater.)

1922: W. Hamilton Gardner (CCB) d. Frank Wattles (Wanakah), 6&5, at Wanakah.

1923: Henry Comstock (Wanakah) d. Ham Gardner (CCB), 5&4, at Niagara Falls CC.

1924: Paul Hyde (CCB) d. Ray McAuliffe (Buffalo GC), 2 up, at Country Club of Buffalo.

1925: Henry Comstock (Wanakah) d. Frank Wattles (Wanakah), 1-up, at Transit Valley.

1926: Paul Hyde (CCB) d. Ham Gardner (CCB), 1-up 40 holes, at Orchard Park.

- (Hyde was 4 down with 5 to go, won 14-15-17-18. Both shot 82 on 2nd 18. Longest playoff in match-play history.)

1927: Paul Hyde (CCB) d. Frank Wattles (Wanakah), 10&9, at Wanakah.

1928: Paul Hyde (CCB) d. Ham Gardner (CCB), 7&5, at Cherry Hill.

1929: Henry Comstock (Wanakah) d. Paul Hyde (CCB), 3&2, at Niagara Falls CC.

1930: Duane Tower (Niagara Falls) d. Leo Shea (South Shore), 1-up 37 holes, at Meadowbrook.

1931: Paul Hyde (CCB) d. Ham Gardner (CCB), 5&3, at Transit Valley.

1932: Leo Shea (South Shore) d. Dick Stewart (Meadowbrook), 3&2, at Meadowbrook.

1933: Leo Shea (South Shore) d. Mike Parco (Buffalo GC), 5&4, at Wanakah.

1934: Jack Ahern (Wanakah) d. Leo Shea (South Shore), 1-up 37 holes, at Niagara Falls.

- (Ahern age 38. Shea, 25, was 6 up with 10 to go.)

1935: George Rayner (Niagara Falls) d. Duane Tower (NFCC), 6&5, at Cherry Hill.

1936: Paul Hyde (CCB) d. Laddie Koehn (Wanakah), 1-up 37 holes, at Orchard Park.

- (Hyde age 48, holed 60-yd wedge for eagle on par-5 33rd hole; made 12-footer on 36th hole to force playoff, 10-footer to win).

1937: Charles Novak (South Shore) d. Joe Conrad (South Park), 1-up 37 holes, at Transit Valley.

1938: Edward Sams (Erie Downs) d. Merlin Luther (Erie Downs), 2&1, at Erie Downs.

1939: Warren Kingsbury (Erie Downs) d. Nelson Peters (Delaware Park), 1-up, at Meadowbrook.

1940: Edward Sams (Erie Downs) d. Joe VanderVoort (Shorewood), 7&5, at Transit Valley.

1941: Walter Brodzik Sr. (Buffalo GC-Grover) d. Harold Smith (NFCC), 4&3, at NFCC.

- (Brodzik, 25, became second public-course player to win title. He played at Grover Cleveland.)

1942: William Szustak (Buffalo GC-Grover) d. Gil Snashell (Erie Downs), 6&5, at Orchard Park.

1943: No event.

1944: No event.

1945: No event.

1946: Walter Andzel (Erie Downs) d. Walter Voisiniet (Transit Valley), 7&6, at Wanakah.

1947: Edward Sams (Erie Downs) d. Lyndon Wilson (CCB), 1-up 37 holes, at Brookfield.

1948: Fran McCarthy (Transit Valley) d. Gar Miller (Wanakah), 1-up 37 holes, at Transit Valley.

1949: Effie O'Connor Jr. (Transit Valley) d. Vince Muranyi, 6&5, (Buffalo GC-Grover) at CCB.

1950: Clarence Hutt (Park) d. Bobby Williams (NFCC), 10&9, at Park CC.

1951: Edward Sams (South Shore) d. Lee Markey (South Shore), 6&5, at Erie Downs.

- (Sams, a Post Office clerk, won fourth BDGA title at age 35.)

1952: Lee Markey (South Shore) d. Joe May (South Shore), 7&6, at South Shore.

1953: Fran McCarthy (Transit Valley) d. John Ceccarelli (South Shore), 2&1, at Orchard Park.

1954: Joe Pasnik (South Shore) d. Clarence Hutt (Transit Valley), 5&4, at Cherry Hill.

1955: Fran McCarthy (Transit Valley) d. Rudy Rychel (Hyde Park), 10&9, at Niagara Falls.

- (McCarthy age 44.)

1956: William Szustak (Buffalo GC-Grover) d. Joe May (South Shore) 1-up, 38 holes, at Brookfield.

- (Szustak, a 40-year-old Buffalo detective, sets record with 14 years between titles. He had 17 1-putt greens.)

1957: Walter Andzel (South Shore) d. John Konsek (Lancaster), 1-up, at Wanakah.

- (Andzel, 37, upset Ward Wettlaufer, 21, and Ed Pfister, 18, before taking down Konsek, 17, the NYS junior champion.)

1958: Ward Wettlaufer (CCB) d. Ed Kaczor (South Shore), 3&2, at Transit Valley.

1959: Ward Wettlaufer (CCB) d. Gerry Bracci (South Shore), 10&8, at CC of Buffalo.

- (Wettlaufer age 23. Bracci, 22, upset John Konsek in semifinal, in 19 holes.)

1960: John Konsek (Brookfield) d. Ward Wettlaufer (CCB), 3&2, at Park CC.

- (Crowd of 3,000 watched. Konsek shot course-record 61 in qualifier.)

1961: Emil Pasnik (South Shore) d. Ted Kochan (Elkdale), 2&1, at Lancaster.

- (Emil Pasnik, 42, older brother of 1954 champ Joe Pasnik. First brother combo to earn titles.)

1962: Murrel Schwartzott (Cazenovia) d. Ed Kaczor (South Shore), 6&4, at Orchard Park.

1963: Pete Corrallo (Chestnut Meadows) d. Jack Eaton (Transit Valley), 2&1, at Westwood.

1964: Dr. Karl Englert Jr. (Moonbrook) d. Bill Reynolds (Cherry Hill), 8&7, at Cherry Hill.

EVENT SWITCHED TO STROKE PLAY

1965: Ed Kaczor (South Shore) 16-over 296 at Niagara Falls CC, won by 3 over Englert (Moonbrook).

- (Twice a BDGA runner-up and NYS runner-up to Konsek in 1960, Kaczor won in his 15th try at BDGA.)

1966: Dr. Joseph Pantera (South Park) 10-over 298 at Brookfield CC, won by 2 over Fred Brewer (Brookfield).

1967: Bill Herman (Transit Valley) 14-over 302 at CCB, won by 4 over Bob Battaglia (Brookfield).

1968: Dan O'Neill (Moonbrook) 4-over 292 at Wanakah, won by 6 over Bob Gunnell (Chautauqua).

- (O'Neill, 17 years, 5 months, 3 days, became youngest BDGA winner.)

1969: Steve Barker (Niagara Falls) 6-over 290 at Park, won by 9 over Lou Singer (South Shore).

1970: Bob Battaglia (Brookfield) 4-over 292 at Transit Valley, won by 1 over Ken Hummell (Cazenovia).

- (Battaglia, age 20, was 2 down with 2 to play, made 15-foot birdie on 17, 30-foot on 18 to win.)

1971: Dan O'Neill (Moonbrook) 10-over 294 at South Shore, won by 5 over Bob Battaglia (Brookfield).

1972: Fred Silver (Niagara Falls) 9-over 293 at Springville, won by 1 over Larry Zee (Tonawanda), Dan O'Neill (Moonbrook).

1973: Don Doctor (Gowanda) 10-over 298 at River Oaks, won by 2 over Jon Dale (Brookfield).

1974: Don Doctor (Gowanda) 6-over 294 at Ransom Oaks, won by 3 over Mark Balen (Crag Burn).

1975: Jim Keim (Moonbrook) 5-over 293 at Shorewood, won by 3 over Don Doctor (Gowanda).

1976: Walter Brodzik Jr. (Buffalo GC-Grover) 7-over 291 at Springville, won by 4 over Jay Benson (River Oaks).

- (First father-son combo to hold title. Walter Jr. age 19.)

1977: Mark Balen (Crag Burn) 17-over 305 at Ransom Oaks, won by 3 over Bob DeWitt (Transit Valley).

1978: Gary Battistoni (East Aurora) 9-over 293 Lancaster, won by 5 over Mark Balen (Crag Burn).

- (Battistoni age 18.)

1979: Gary Battistoni (East Aurora) 10-over 294 at East Aurora, won by 3 over Gary Neuschel (Dande Farms) and Mike Klimtzak (East Aurora).

1980: Bob Gunnell (Chautauqua) 16-over 304 at Ransom Oaks, won by 5 over John Lanz (River Oaks).

1981: Dr. Jim Smith (Crag Burn) 10-over 298 at Brookfield, d. Gary Neuschel (Dande Farms) on 1st playoff hole.

- (Smith was down 4 with 2 to go, birdied 17, made par 4 on 18 to Neuschel's 7)

1982: Dan Stetz (Bartlett CC) 4-over 288, at Gowanda, won by 2 over Frank Mellet Jr. (Orchard Park).

1983: Fred Silver (Niagara Falls) 4-over 284 at Niagara Frontier, won by 7 over Frank Garcia Sr. (Hyde Park)

1984: Fred Silver (Niagara Falls) 9-over 297 at Crag Burn, won by 1 over Mike Klimtzak (East Aurora).

1985: Dr. Jim Smith (Crag Burn) 9-over 297 at Orchard Park, d. Tim Hume (Audubon) on 1st playoff hole.

1986: Dan Vona (Tri-County) 14-over 298 at Springville, won by 4 over Dan Stetz (Bartlett).

- (Vona became youngest champion, at 17 years, 4 months, 9 days.)

1987: Paul Stetz (Elkdale CC) 13-over 297 at Gowanda, won by 2 over Dan Stetz (Bartlett).

- (Second brother combo to hold title.)

1988: John Gaffney (Brookfield) 5-over 221 at Crag Burn, won by 1 over Fred Silver (Niagara Falls).

- (Largest comeback in stroke-play history. Gaffney eight down after 36 holes, 7 down to Silver with 9 to play, shot final-round 71.)

1989: John Gaffney (Brookfield) 8-over 224 at Orchard Park, d. Dan Stetz (Bartlett) on 4th playoff hole.

- (Longest playoff in stroke-play history, tied with 1926 for longest playoff ever.)

1990: Bob Gunnell (Chautauqua) even-par 216 at Brierwood, d. John Gaffney (Brookfield) on 1st playoff hole.

- (Gunnell, 56, surpassed Paul Hyde - 1936 - as oldest champion.)

1991: John Gaffney (Brookfield) 10-over 223 at East Aurora, won by 5 over Ed Reidy (Glen Oak).

1992: Brian McGahey (Hamburg) 12-over 228 at Westwood, d. Gary Matteson (Cazenovia) on 1st playoff hole.

1993: Bob Rosen (Westwood) 7-over 220 at Gowanda, d. Woody Arnold (Park) and Gary Keppel (Gowanda) on 1st playoff hole.

1994: Fred Silver (Niagara Falls) 11-over 227 at Fox Valley, d. Jay Stellrecht (Lancaster) on 2nd playoff hole.

1995: Fred Silver (Niagara Falls) 4-over 217 at Transit Valley, won by 5 over Tom Gantress (Sheridan).

- (Silver, age 50, won fifth BDGA, setting record for longest span between first and last victories – 23 years.)

1996: Tim Hume (Cherry Hill) 4-under 212 at Shelridge, won by 9 over Ken Riter (Park).

- (Hume scored largest margin of victory in event history and was first with three rounds under par.)

1997: Tim Hume (Park) 4-under 212 at Orchard Park, won by 6 over Tom Gantress (Sheridan).

1998: Tim Hume (Park) 6-over 222 at Brookfield, won by 1 over Jim Smith (Crag Burn), Kyle Gay (Brookfield).

1999: Tim Hume (Park) 3-under 213 at Westwood, won by 8 over Tom Gantress (Sheridan) and Jay Stellrecht (Lancaster).

- (Hume, 37, became first to win four straight.)

2000: Frank Garcia Jr. (Cataract) 4-over 220 at Cherry Hill, d. John Gaffney (Brookfield) on first playoff hole.

- (Garcia, 8 down to start final round, shot 67, made eight birdies in final 19 holes)

2001: Nick Amigone III (Transit Valley) 5-over 221 at Crag Burn, won by 1 over Frank Garcia Jr. (Cataract).

- (Amigone, 52, became second oldest winner ever.)

2002: Frank Broderick (East Aurora) even-par 213 at Springville, d. John Heffernan (Niagara Falls) on 1st playoff hole.

- (Broderick age 51, beat Heffernan, 24, with par on 18th.)

2003: Kyle Hess (Cherry Hill) 6-under 207 at Park, won by 5 over Kevin Crawford (Shelridge) and Tony Hejna (Crag Burn).

- (Hess, two-time state amateur champ and a senior at Richmond, shot 3 rounds of par or better.)

2004: Dave Patronik (Brierwood) 3-over 216 at Niagara Frontier, won by 3 over P.J. Alterio (Niagara Falls) and John Edwards (Niagara Falls).

2005: Dave Patronik (Brierwood) 8-under 208 at Arrowhead/Wanakah, won by 6 over Jamie Miller (Tri-County).

- (Patronik, a senior at Gannon, became second to shoot all 3 rounds under par in stroke play format.)

2006: Jeff Wolniewicz (Crag Burn) 6-over 216 at Niagara Falls, won by 2 over Chris Covelli (Wanakah), Mike Fetter (Park) and Nick Morreale (Niagara Falls).

2007: Jamie Miller (Tri-County) 4-under 209, at Transit Valley, won by 3 over Jake Katz (Westwood).

2008: Jamie Miller (Tri-County) 2-under 214, at Brierwood, won by 3 over Liam Friedman (Orchard Park).

2009: Raman Luthra (Crag Burn) 11-under 205 at Loch Ness Links, won by 5 over Billy Wisniewski (East Aurora).

- (Luthra set record for lowest score in relation to par over 3 rounds. Ten players finished par or better.)

2010: Jake Katz (Westwood) 1-under 215 at Tri-County, won by 8 over Michael Carrig (Springville) and Nick Morreale (Niagara Falls).

2011: Jake Katz (Westwood) 10-under 206 at Brookfield, won by 8 over Chris Covelli (Wanakah) and Matt Stasiak (Fox Valley).

- (Katz shot 70-66-70 to become fourth to shoot all 3 rounds under par.)

2012: Raman Luthra (Crag Burn) 2-under 211 at Niagara Frontier, won by 4 over Danny Yustin (Transit Valley).

2013: Raman Luthra (Crag Burn) 3-under 213 at Crag Burn, won by 5 over Jonathan Clark (Crag Burn) and Thad Wier (Springville).

2014: Austin Nowak (Lancaster) 3-over 219 at Cherry Hill, won by 2 over Danny Yustin (Transit Valley).

2015: Desmond Stoll (Lockport) 6-under 207 at Niagara Frontier, won by 7 over Nick Morreale (Niagara Falls).

- (Stoll shot 3 rounds under par - 69-69-69)

2016: Billy Gaffney (Brookfield) 1-over 214 at Transit Valley, won by 2 over Ben Reichert (River Oaks).

- (Gaffneys became second father-son combo to win title, joining Brodziks.)

2017: Kevin Borowicz (River Oaks) 6-over 184 at Niagara Frontier, won by 1 over Ben Reichert (River Oaks).

- (It was a 45-hole event. Round 3 cut to 9 holes due to rain).

2018: David Hanes (Crag Burn) 3-over 219 at Brookfield, won by 1 over Tom Romano (Lancaster).

2019: Patrick Nealon (Brierwood) 3-under 213 at Brierwood, won by 4 over Adrian Norford (Willowbrook).

2020: Anthony Delisanti (Willowbrook) even-par 213 at Springville, won by 1 over Billy Hanes (Crag Burn).

- (Delisanti became youngest to win title, at 17 years, 2 months, 5 days.)

2021: Anthony Delisanti (Willowbrook), 10-under 134 at Glen Oak, won by 3 over Ryan Hart (CCB).

- (Event shortened to 36 holes due to rain.)

2022: Anthony Delisanti (Willowbrook), 5-under 211 at Crag Burn, won by 6 over Billy Hanes (Crag Burn).

- (Delisanti joins Paul Hyde, Tim Hume as only golfers to win three straight BDGAs.)

2023: Billy Hanes (Crag Burn), 9-under 207 at Orchard Park CC, won by 1 over James Blackwell (River Oaks).

2024: Nolan Piazza (Cherry Hill), 11-under 202 at Park CC, won by 3 over Ryan Edholm (Pendleton Creek GC).

- (Piazza tied record for lowest score in relation to par for 54 holes.)

2025: David Hanes (Crag Burn), 8-under 208 at Cloverbank CC, won by 1 over Michael Donner (Crag Burn).

- (David, Billy Hanes become first brother duo with 3 combined BDGA titles.)

2026: Mike Wolski (Lancaster), 4-under 209 at East Aurora CC, d. Charlie Fischer (East Aurora) in 1-hole playoff.