

BC3's Morgan on cusp of becoming college's fifth All-American in golf

June 6, 2019

(Chautauqua, N.Y.) Butler County Community College golfer Noah Morgan, who finished 59th in the 2018 National Junior College Athletic Association Division III national championships, is tied for 14th place after three rounds of the 2019 tournament and on Friday could become the fifth All-American in the BC3 program since 1996.

Morgan, a sophomore and 2016 graduate of Allegheny-Clarion Valley High in Foxburg, shot a 3-over-par 75 on Thursday following rounds of 81 on Tuesday and 80 on Wednesday and with a three-day total of 236 is tied with two others entering Friday's final round at Chautauqua Golf Club.

All-American status is awarded to the Top 18 golfers in the championships, along with a Chautauqua Golf Club Lake Course flag from the hole corresponding to his finish.

Morgan, tied with six others in 18th place after Tuesday, separated himself by scoring birdies on the par-5, 564-yard No. 16 and par-4, 366-yard No. 17 – “One of the toughest holes on the card,” Pioneers coach Bill Miller said.

Only nine times over three rounds have golfers birdied No. 17. The hole has resulted in 88 pars, 106 bogeys, 41 double bogeys and 11 even worse.

If Morgan can score no higher than a 77 on Friday, “He has a chance to do it,” Miller said of Morgan becoming BC3's first All-American in golf since Stefan Carlsson and Thomas Dimun in 2015. “I think he can do it.”

Morgan is the only of BC3's five 2019 golfers to play for a second consecutive year in the national championships. The Pioneers qualified as a team in the tournament by winning their fourth NJCAA Division III Region XX crown in May.

Each of BC3's golfers either tied or improved on his best round of the tournament on Thursday.

Sophomore Tucker Skerbetz, a Laurel High School graduate who with a 79 led BC3 in the first round, shot a 77 on Thursday; Carmen Oliva, freshman and Neshannock High graduate, shot an 80 after consecutive 83s; Tyler Johnson, a sophomore and graduate of Armstrong High, shot his second consecutive 87 following an opening-round 97; and Luke Ostermeyer, a Laurel High graduate and BC3 sophomore, had an 88 following 93s on Tuesday and Wednesday.



Butler County Community College golfer Noah Morgan is tied for 18th place and in contention for All-American status after three rounds.

With a three-day total of 992, the Pioneers moved from eighth place on Wednesday among 11 teams into a tie for seventh on Thursday with Cayuga Community College, Auburn, N.Y. BC3's best finish in 2009, 2013 and 2015 appearances in the national championships was sixth in 2015.

The Community College of Morris, Randolph, N.J., and Niagara County Community College, Sanborn, N.Y., are tied for fifth with 989s.

Sandhills Community College, Pinehurst, N.C., leads with a 923. Only the top four scores of each player are tallied in the team standings.

Trey Capps, of Sandhills, shot a 70 on Thursday and held his lead in the championships against a field of 85 nationwide with a three-day 220 – 16 strokes ahead of Morgan; Nick Axelrom, of the Community College of Morris; and Jarrett Brightbill, of Harris Community College, Houston, Texas.

Morgan's successive rounds of improved scores show that "He is grinding it out," Miller said. "He is thinking this course through and is getting more confident with each swing. That has been the key so far. He's very determined. He left here last year wanting to prove to himself that he could do better. He has done that."

BC3 has been awarded five All-American honors in golf to four different players, to Carlsson, of Knoch, in 2014 and 2015; Dimun, of Butler, in 2015, Michael Cuscino, of Shenango, in 2008; and Matthew Heighes, of Titusville, in 1996.

Morgan is in the last threesome to tee off in the national championships at 10:44 a.m. Friday.