

NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL INVITATIONAL

Everything falls into place for Schultz

Third-round 65 gives him three-stroke lead

By Bob Baptist
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Dave Schultz is a creature of habit, apparently. "He's kind of superstitious," said Tom Miles, his caddie. They've eaten dinner at the same High Street pizza joint every night since Schultz, an 11th-hour alternate in the field, arrived Wednesday. They've eaten breakfast at the same place every morning. They exchange clubs the same way after every shot — rather than hand it to Schultz, Miles has to lean it against the bag for Schultz to pick up. "Sounds crazy," Schultz said. "But it's working." One more round today like his first three and you can call him

crazy all you want. Just don't call him for a loan. Schultz shot a tournament-record, 6-under-par 65 at the Ohio State Scarlet Course yesterday to open a three-stroke lead after three rounds of the Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational. The second-year Nationwide Tour pro has a record 13-under-par 200 heading into the final round, three strokes ahead of Gavin Coles of Australia and five up on his next-closest pursuer, amateur Rickie Fowler. Coles shot 67 while Fowler, a second-round co-leader, had 70. Schultz and Miles, a Watterson graduate, met on the golf team at Texas Christian University and, though four years apart in age (Schultz is 26), forged a friendship.

They also teamed last year in this tournament, in which Schultz opened with a 67 but didn't break 73 the rest of the way. "A lot of times when I would get under par, I would hold on instead of keep going," Schultz said. This week, he has kept going. "Honestly, it's kind of just a peace of mind I had when I got here this week," he said. "I was so happy to be here. There's nothing to lose." Miles picked up Schultz at the airport and Schultz is bunking at the Miles family's home in Dublin. No worries about where to stay, where to eat and where to drive. "That is the toughest thing for me playing professional golf," Schultz said. "When I'm staying in a hotel by myself in a town that I haven't been before, that's when I gets lonely out here.

"When I get out in a good position, I feel like I can play more patient, and that's when I play my best golf."

DAVE SCHULTZ

"This week with Tom, his family has been great, and as far as on the golf course, this is very not like me. I do not use caddies' help on putts, but from hole one on Thursday, I've trusted what he's saying. He's given me spots to hit the putts to. He's been a big help." Schultz leads the tournament in putting with 27 each round. He has 18 birdies, including seven yesterday. "Aside from the last three (holes) today, we've pretty much made

everything we've looked at," Miles said. Schultz, admittedly nervous to start the third round, birdied the first hole, made a long two-putt for par on the second and saved par on the third. Settled, he birdied five of the next nine holes. "When I get out in a good position, I feel like I can play more patient, and that's when I play my best golf," he said. Coles, last in the field in driving distance but first in hitting greens in regulation, called Scarlet "a very patient golf course." Patience might not be the the answer today for anyone but Schultz with designs on winning the \$139,500 first prize. "I don't see him really moving back," Fowler said. **bbaptist@dispatch.com**



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Len Mattiace, left, flirted with victory in the 2003 Masters. Bob May, right, lost a playoff in the 2000 PGA Championship.

Brushes with greatness

Nationwide regulars May, Mattiace have played for titles in PGA majors

By Zach Swartz
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Nine years ago, Bob May walked off the 18th green on Sunday tied for the lead at the PGA Championship. Len Mattiace did the same at the 2003 Masters. Neither won. In 2000, May entered the final round paired with Tiger Woods, who was aiming to become the first golfer since Ben Hogan in 1953 to win three majors in one year. Mattiace, down by five strokes after three rounds, shot a 7-under-par 65 on the final day and needed a par on the 18th hole to pass Mike Weir for the win. Woods beat May by a stroke in a three-hole playoff. Mattiace bogeyed the final hole, then fell to Weir in a playoff. Mattiace, who owns two career PGA Tour victories, and May, who has five top-10 finishes, are still plugging along, this time at the Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational at the

Ohio State Scarlet Course. May, 40, and Mattiace, 41, are regulars on the Nationwide Tour, the effective minor leagues of the PGA Tour. With seven top-25 finishes between them this year, it hasn't been quite the same feeling as their oh-so-close experiences in majors. But winning any tournament, they say, is still winning. "People say, 'Ah, baloney,' but a tournament is a tournament," said May, who shot 74 yesterday and is at 1-over 214, 14 shots off the lead. "Every time I play, I want to play as good as I can. When I get out there, I'm trying just as hard whether this is the Ohio state championship or the Nationwide or a major." May, who sat out three seasons because of a back injury, returned to make 24 cuts in PGA Tour events from 2006 to 2008. The past two years, he has played in 37 Nationwide events and is 57th on the money list. Mattiace, who has one

top-25 finish on the PGA Tour this year, is 80th on the Nationwide money list. "It's a fine line," May said. "You can't just say these guys are on this tour and not the PGA Tour. You can't tell the difference. There are a lot of people playing on this tour that haven't had the opportunity to play on the big tour but could probably keep their card and play just fine." Mattiace, who has finished 23 times in the top 10 of a PGA event, agreed. "There is not really a difference (between the two tours)," said Mattiace, who missed the cut Friday. "The game is the same. If you are putting for a 64 on the last hole, it's the same great accomplishment that you've beaten the field." That may be the case, but when it's a PGA major on the line, both May and Mattiace say that the pressure is quite dissimilar. "When you're playing against Tiger, no one has anything to lose against him," May said. "He's supposed to win. He should beat you. I just think you shouldn't let the pressure get on you. It's hard not to.

But if you think about it that way, you relieve some of the tension that is going to be around you that day." May and Woods were easily associate in junior golf. Both were from southern California, and Woods was not shy about surpassing the records that the elder May had set. "I had pretty much set records at every age," May said. "At that point he was trying to break every record I set on the way up through." Woods, obviously, has had his success, but May and Mattiace are not lacking. They have combined for more than \$10 million in winnings. They might be competing on the Nationwide Tour now, but they've stayed in the game and have the experience of playing for titles in golf's biggest events. "Those were just situations when we had very good weeks," Mattiace said. "We had not been there a lot. It's not like we had three top-fives in majors. We're all trying to get back and have good weeks like that." **zswartz@dispatch.com**

Woods' unconventional 65 gives him 1-shot lead

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRAND BLANC TOWNSHIP, Mich. — Tiger Woods drove on adjacent fairways twice on the back nine, hit a cup of beer in a spectator's hand, got rattled by a bug and was relegated to shaping some shots around trees and under branches. He still managed to shoot a 7-under-par 65 yesterday in the third round of the Buick Open, giving him a 17-under 199 total and a one-stroke lead when Michael Letzig (68) double-bogeyed the last hole. "The whole idea of the game is put the ball in the hole, and I did that," Woods said. "But as far as controlling my ball, I didn't do that." Woods opened his first tournament since missing the cut at the British

practice range. "I don't care," Letzig said when asked if it would be tough to forget what happened on the last hole. "I'm one shot out of the lead." Based on history, that's probably an insurmountable deficit behind Woods. Woods has a 35-1 record on the PGA Tour when he has the lead after 54 holes. The lone loss in this situation came when he was 20 in his third tournament as a pro, to Ed Fiori in the 1996 Quad City Classic. Woods and Letzig will be in the final group today, just as they were at the Memorial in June, when Woods went on to win and Letzig's 75 plummeted him to a tie for 14th. "I won't be so scared; I'll know what to expect," Letzig said.

Open with a 71 after what he said was probably his worst putting day. When he was eight shots behind first-round leader Steve Lowery, Woods said he couldn't make up ground in one day at Warwick Hills. It took him two. Woods roared back into contention with a 9-under 63 in the second round and then the 65. "Eight back, at a U.S. Open, you can make that up in one round," he said. "You can't make it up around here." He moved into a tie for the lead with Letzig at 17 under with a 33-foot birdie putt at No. 17. Letzig hit a poor shot out of a green-side bunker at No. 18, barely clearing it and leaving him with a tricky lie. He fell to 16 under while Woods was on the

NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL INVITATIONAL NOTEBOOK

Hoag, Wilson have letdowns after making cut

By Bob Baptist
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Bo Hoag and Chris Wilson hoped the rush of making the cut in the Nationwide Children's Hospital Invitational would carry over to the third round. It didn't — not on their scorecards, at least — but the satisfaction of the night before lingered yesterday. "I didn't play very good," Wilson said, "but that's golf." Wilson, a second-year pro from Dublin, and Hoag, an Ohio State junior from Upper Arlington, were the last players on the OSU Scarlet Course on Friday night when, in fading daylight, they made the cut on the nose in the first Nationwide Tour event for each. Wilson had 14 pars and two birdies in his last 16 holes. Hoag overcame a double bogey on his 10th hole with birdies on two of his last four. He made the cut with a 6-foot birdie putt on the final green, which elicited a roar from a small army of family and friends. "It couldn't have happened without all these people here," Hoag said. "It's such a blast for me to have all these fans support me. I almost got a little emotional before I even hit the putt because I just thought about how close they are to me and how much it meant for them to be hanging around out here until 9 or 9:15. I just said to myself, 'You can't miss this putt. All these people didn't come out here to see you miss this putt.'" Neither Hoag nor Wilson got to bed before 11 p.m., and they were back at Scarlet before

7 a.m. yesterday. They did not use the short night as an excuse, but Hoag was ready for a nap after shooting 77. Wilson shot 74. "It was kind of tough," Hoag said. "It was so intense last night, kind of draining, just a big day in my life, and I didn't have a whole lot of time to take it all in." After resting yesterday, he planned to hit the range and "get ready for a low one" today. **Sooner, not later** Twenty-three of the top 25 money-winners on the Nationwide Tour entered the tournament but only 12 made the cut. The highest one remaining, No. 4 Tom Gillis of Oxford, Mich., is tied for fourth heading into the final round and likely will sew up a top-25 finish on the money list today. That will put him on the PGA Tour next year. He doesn't want to wait that long. "I'm more interested in trying to win three tournaments and get out of here," he said. Three wins in a season earns a Nationwide Tour player an immediate "battlefield promotion" to the PGA Tour. Gillis has one win. **A Darr endorsement** Rickie Fowler had dinner Friday night with new Ohio State men's golf coach Donnie Darr, a Coshocton native who coached Fowler the past two seasons as an assistant at Oklahoma State. "He's going to do a lot here," Fowler said. "He knows what he's doing, knows how to coach. He was awesome to walk with at tournaments." **bbaptist@dispatch.com**

Scores, tee times

Third round	Score	Tee time
AT OSU SCARLET (PAR-71) a-amateur		
Dave Schultz	67-68-65=200	7:10-73-214
Gavin Coles	68-68-67=203	71-69-74-214
a-Rickie Fowler	69-66-70=205	72-70-73-215
Tom Gillis	69-68-69=206	71-70-74-215
Chris Tidland	68-68-70=206	70-71-74-215
Joe Daley	68-67-71=206	71-69-75-215
Kyle Reifers	67-70-70=207	72-70-74-216
Steve Wheatcroft	67-71-69=207	71-71-74-216
Henrik Bjornstad	67-69-71=207	70-71-75-216
Brad Elder	71-71-66=208	69-71-76-216
Derek Lamely	71-69-68=208	69-70-77-216
Bubba Dickerson	71-70-68=209	72-70-75-217
Dustin Risdon	74-66-69=209	71-70-76-217
a-Nick Taylor	69-71-69=209	69-72-76-217
a-Morgan Hoffmann	70-69-70=209	71-71-76-218
Phil Tataurangi	67-70-72=209	70-72-77-219
Dustin Bray	69-73-68=210	72-70-80-222
David Morland IV	73-69-68=210	73-69-81-223
Jon Mills	68-74-68=210	
Matt Every	71-70-69-210	
Blake Adams	70-70-70=210	
Jhonattan Vegas	69-71-70=210	
Garth Mulroy	72-67-71=210	
Garrett Osborn	69-70-71=211	
Scott Gardiner	73-68-71=212	
Paul Gow	69-70-71=211	
Todd Fischer	69-70-72=211	
Grant Waite	69-70-72=211	
Oskar Bergman	69-69-73=211	
Andrew Svoboda	71-70-71=212	
Chad Collins	69-70-71=212	
Brian Stuard	71-71-71=213	
Sal Spallone	71-71-71=213	
Alex Prugh	72-70-71=213	
Won Joon Lee	70-72-71=213	
Jim Ruffledge	69-70-74=213	
Alistair Presnell	71-68-72=214	
Marco Dawson	71-71-72=214	
Vance Veazey	70-71-73=214	
Brent Delahoussaye	73-68-73=214	
Steve Friesen	70-71-73=214	
Bob May	71-69-74=214	
Craig Kanada	72-70-73=215	
Andrew Buckle	71-70-74=215	
Ryan Armour	70-71-74=215	
Craig Bowden	70-71-74=215	
B.J. Statten	71-69-75=215	
Chris Wilson	72-70-74=216	
Alex Aragon	71-71-74=216	
Daniel Summerhays	72-69-75=216	
Jin Park	70-71-75=216	
Rich Barcelo	69-71-76=216	
David McKenzie	69-70-77=216	
Michael Clark II	72-70-75=217	
Chad Ginn	71-70-76=217	
Jim Herman	69-72-76=217	
Geoffrey Sisk	71-71-76=218	
a-Bo Hoag	70-72-77=219	
Jeff Curl	72-70-80=222	
Kyle Stanley	73-69-81=223	
Today's tee times		
7:51 a.m.: Jeff Curl, Kyle Stanley; 8: Scotty Sisk, Bo Hoag; 8:09: Chad Ginn, Jim Herman; 8:18: David McKenzie, Michael Clark II; 8:27: Jin Park, Rich Barcelo; 8:36: Alex Aragon, Daniel Summerhays; 8:45: B.J. Statten, Chris Wilson; 8:54: Ryan Armour, Craig Bowden; 9:03: Craig Kanada, Andrew Buckle; 9:12: Steve Friesen, Bob May; 9:21: Vance Veazey, Brent Delahoussaye; 9:30: Alistair Presnell, Marco Dawson; 9:39: Won Joon Lee, Jim Ruffledge; 9:48: Sal Spallone, Alex Prugh; 9:57: Chad Collins, Brian Stuard; 10:06: Garrett Willis, Justin Boli; 10:15: Justin Hicks, Jeff Gove; 10:24: Kyle Reifers, Jonas Blixt; 10:33: Oskar Bergman, Phil Tataurangi; 10:42: Todd Fischer, Grant Waite; 10:51: Scott Gardiner, Paul Gow; 11: Garth Mulroy, Garrett Osborn; 11:10: Blake Adams, Jhonattan Vegas; 11:20: Jon Mills, Matt Every; 11:30: Dustin Bray, David Morland IV; 11:40: Morgan Hoffmann, Phil Tataurangi; 11:50: Dustin Risdon, Nick Taylor; Noon: Derek Lamely, Bubba Dickerson; 12:10 p.m.: Henrik Bjornstad, Brad Elder; 12:20: Scott Parel, Steve Wheatcroft; 12:30: Chris Tidland, Joe Daley; 12:40: Rickie Fowler, Tom Gillis; 12:50: Dave Schultz, Gavin Coles.		