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## Hardin: Bruce Woodall poised for next step along path to U.S. Open

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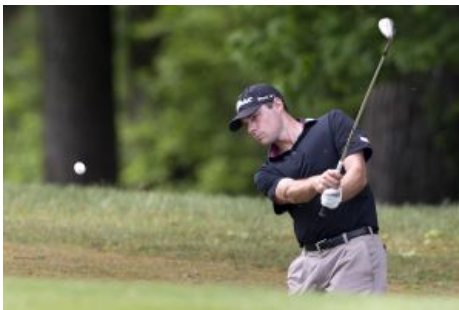
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LYNN HEY/News & Record

Bruce Woodall of Yanceyville shoots out of the bunker on No. 13 as he tries to qualify for the U.S. Open Championship at Greensboro Country Club's Farm Course on Monday, May 5, 2014, in Greensboro, NC.

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 **U.S. Open Championship  
qualifier in Greensboro**

Golfers compete in the USGA local  
qualifier Monday at Greensboro Country  
Club's Farm Course on Monday.

Posted: Monday, May 5, 2014 9:42 pm

By Ed Hardin [ed.hardin@news-record.com](mailto:ed.hardin@news-record.com)



Posted on May 5, 2014  
by [Ed Hardin](#)

**GREENSBORO**  
— Bruce Woodall  
was a pretty good  
basketball player at Greensboro Day  
School a few years back. Turns out, he was  
a pretty good golfer, too.

The 25-year-old from Yanceyville gave up  
basketball for golf and hasn't looked back.  
Well, maybe a little.

Woodall graduated from Virginia two years  
ago and set out to achieve a dream of  
playing on the PGA Tour. In the USGA local  
qualifier Monday at Greensboro Country  
Club's Farm Course, he shot a 66 for  
another step toward his dream.

Now comes sectionals. And then who  
knows.

Woodall went to Greensboro Day because  
he wanted to play golf and basketball and  
also to test himself academically. He left  
his mark. When it came time to choose a  
career path, he didn't hesitate. Two years

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Appalashian State, UNCC men's basketball hit with APR penalties. [ncaa.org/about/resource...](http://ncaa.org/about/resource...)

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14 May

APR Day. Say a prayer for your local institutions of higher learning.

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Jenna Fryer  
@JennaFryer

14 May

I don't know what this means, but: [#NASCAR](#) next year will "implement its automated pit road officiating technology" every lap, every race.

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ORAC

14 May

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into a professional apprenticeship, Woodall believes he's on course.

"I'm right on schedule," he said. "I don't feel like there's any age where I'll feel like I'm behind schedule."

In other words, he's committed.

"I could've played college basketball," he said.

His high school coach agrees.

"He was the best pure shooter I ever coached," Freddy Johnson said. "He was one of the most coachable athletes I ever had."

Woodall went to Virginia on scholarship, played golf all four years, got his degree in government and set out on the long journey of becoming a professional golfer. The road hasn't been easy.

Monday was the third time he'd tried to qualify for the U.S. Open. In a field of 120 golfers, only six advanced, with two alternates.

Many in the field knew Carlson Farm much better than he does, but Woodall made seven birdies in a round that included one bogey and a lip-out for eagle on the 18th.

But it's not as if he was playing an unknown course.

"I've played out here a lot," he said. "I just relaxed a little bit and let it flow."

Like a pure shooter on a hometown court, Woodall hit fairways and greens. After a swing tip from his dad the night before, Woodall went out feeling no pressure despite having to walk past the U.S. Open trophy before his round.

He's been through local qualifying three times now, but he's never gotten past sectionals. That's the next big hurdle, a 36-hole, one-day gut-wrencher with only a few spots available for the U.S. Open June 12-15 at Pinehurst No. 2.

"I've played there a couple of times before the renovation," he said. "I was there in 1999, I think. I remember seeing Tiger, but I was like 10 years old. To play there is pretty much every golfer's dream."

It's been Woodall's dream for a long time. He didn't grow up in a country club setting. His

American League

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San Francisco	Preview

NHL Scoreboard

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parents still own and operate Tee to Green, a golf shop in Eden that the family has owned for 30 years.

His brief consideration of basketball pretty much ended when Virginia offered. After a nice high school career that included playing for Greensboro Day's 2006 state championship team, he turned his full attention to school and golf.

He still played pickup ball with the Virginia players, even this past year when the Cavs won the ACC title.

Since leaving Virginia, he has played on the eGolf Tour, finishing 2013 as the No. 2 money winner. This year, he has played in three events and will soon set out for qualifying school for the Canadian Tour.

It never gets any easier.

Woodall's friends and teammates from Virginia have enjoyed more success early, and he sometimes wonders when his break will come. But he refuses to put more pressure on himself.

"You see guys all the time make it when they're like 31 or something," he said. "It's really easy to feel like you're behind. But I don't feel that way. I feel like I'm exactly where I want to be right now."

He was in his element on Monday, firing at pins and soaking in the life. The silver trophy loomed, and all around him golfers collapsed under the pressure. Woodall has the nerves of a cold-blooded jump shooter, and he didn't think about anything except getting past local qualifying.

Now come the sectionals, where better players are waiting, professional players with their livelihoods on the line on a course toughened for the final test before the Open.

Woodall has his entire career ahead of him. He's playing the game of his life with no pressure and no schedule dictating his plans. All he's waiting for is a hot streak.

Like all pure shooters, he knows it's going to happen. He just doesn't know when.

Contact Ed Hardin at (336) 373-7069, and follow @Ed\_Hardin on Twitter.

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