

Crean Lutheran's Guo wins CIF-SS Southern Regional with record-setting round



Crean Lutheran's Guo wins CIF-SS Southern Regional with record-setting round

By **DAMIAN V. DOTTORE** |

PUBLISHED: May 7, 2018 at 8:42 pm | UPDATED: May 7, 2018 at 8:42 pm

LONG BEACH – When Tyler Guo watched his opening tee shot Monday at Skylinks Golf Course, the Crean Lutheran junior had a feeling he might be ready to make history at the CIF-SS Boys Golf Southern Individual Regional.

He lined up attempting to hit a 10-yard draw, and the ball flew off his driver right on course.

“When I hit shots like that, I know it is going to be a good day,” he said. “When that happens, I am going onto the tee thinking about birdies, not pars. It is a different mentality.

“I was definitely thinking about it (breaking the course record) today.”

Guo came up a few shots short of reaching that goal, but his 8-under-par 64 was still good enough to win the tournament by three strokes and bump former Servite standout Patrick Cantlay out of the tournament record book.

Guo's score eclipsed Cantlay's regional record by one stroke. Cantlay, a PGA Tour regular who is in 16th place in the FedEx Cup standings, posted a 65 in winning this event in 2009 while a junior at Servite.

Guo put together a serious challenge to the course record too, sitting at 8-under with three holes to go after he chipped his third shot on the par-5 11th to within a couple of inches of the pin. But he finished with three consecutive pars, leaving him three strokes shy of equaling the course record set by Tyrone Van Aswegen at the 2009 Long Beach Open.

"When I got to eight, I knew I was able to push it more, but then some mistakes led to even-par on my last holes," Guo said.

He put his tee shots into the greenside bunkers on the par-3 No. 13 and par-4 No. 14, his final two holes.

"I almost got up and down on the last one (14) to make birdie, but I didn't. I wasn't all that mad. I played alright," he said. "But when you are in these situations, there are always expectations. I always expect more."

Six golfers in the 119-player field joined Guo in the 60s. San Clemente junior Alex Pak finished second with a 67 while University freshman George Lu placed third with a 68.

"I didn't quite hit good enough shots to get to 64, but I knew with the kinds of shots that I had today I pretty much played as well as I could," Pak said. "The biggest thing for me was staying out of trouble."

He did that until he tugged his approach on the par-4 No. 1 – his third-to-last hole – over the green, and he had to put a bogey on his scorecard that included six birdies.

"I have a lot of confidence now going forward," Pak said. "I am very happy with a 67."

The top 20 players from the tournament advanced to the CIF-SS Individual Championship on May 17 at Rancho San Marcos Golf Course in Santa Barbara.

JSerra sophomore Caden McMackin became the first player in school history to advance out of the CIF regional by shooting a 71.

It took a 73 to get into a playoff to earn the final three spots into the field.