

# **Papineau set to defend Glencoe Invitational title**

**By Laurence Heinen**

The fourth time proved to be a charm for Etienne Papineau at the 2018 Glencoe Invitational.

Papineau carded scores of 71, 76 and 70 for a three-round total of 1-over 217 to beat runner-up Jared Nicolls by four strokes last June.

“It meant a lot to me, to be honest,” said Papineau, who hails from St. Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que. “I wanted to win this event so bad. Last year was my fourth year. I just got a lot better every year I played in this event.

“I knew coming in last year my game was good and I knew the course very well, so I knew I had a good chance and I got it done, so it was very, very special to me to win this.”

Heading into the 2019 edition of the Glencoe Invitational, which runs from Thursday to Saturday on the Glencoe Golf and Country Club’s Forest course, Papineau realizes that it will be a tough challenge to become just the third player to win back-to-back titles.

Darryl James won the first two installments of the tournament in 1992 and 1993, while Mitch Evanecz pulled off the feat in 2009 and 2010.

“Overall, it’s a great challenge,” said Papineau, while noting he’ll have to play smart off the tee and have a good short game around the greens to be in contention once again. “It’s probably one of the greatest courses I play over the year. I’m just going to approach this tournament like every other tournament. I’m going to try to not put pressure on me.

“There’s a lot of good players in this field this week. I’m just going to play my game and we’ll see what happens on Saturday.”

This year’s field will include eight Glencoe Golf and Country Club members in Conaire Kehoe, Charlie Gingras, Ryan Rutherford, Brett Wilson, Hunter Thomson, Brendan MacDougall and Max Sekulic.

This will be MacDougall's fifth time competing on his home course for bragging rights at the prestigious amateur event and he's hoping to improve upon his seventh-place showing from last year.

"The fact that we're able to show this golf course off to the rest of Alberta, to the rest of Canada is something really special for us," said MacDougall, whose best showing was a fourth-place finish in 2017. "I'm very fortunate, very lucky to be able to have this here. The fact that I get to play here every day is spectacular."

This year's field will feature 23 first-time competitors, including Briggs Duce, of Sierra Vista, Ariz., who was invited to play in the event by his University of Arizona teammate Travis Fredborg.

"He mentioned to me that there's a program through the Glencoe (called the International Bring A Friend Program) where you can invite a teammate and both come up here and play in the tournament," said Duce. "Since he's played here a few years, he thought it would be a good idea for me to come up and experience a great event, so it worked out pretty well."

After playing a couple practice rounds on the Forest on Tuesday and Wednesday, Duce said he's ready for the three-day event to get under way on Thursday morning.

"It's a challenging layout," he said. "I think just taking it one shot at a time, that's the only way you can approach a tough course like this. Just go out there and have fun and see what happens. I'm really excited. It's always fun to play a championship-style golf course and this definitely sets up like that."

Just because he invited Duce to play at the Glencoe Invitational, doesn't mean that Fredborg will go easy on his college teammate.

"I want to beat him every day, but at the end of the day we're still going to be friends," said Fredborg, who's glad Duce could free up his schedule to compete at the tournament. "This place is very special. The golf course is unbelievable. We get treated like kings down here each year. It's a lot of fun."

Seeing as how he's had three top-10 showings at the event over the past four years (sixth in 2018, 10<sup>th</sup> in 2016 and third in 2015), Fredborg has high hopes that he can be in contention once again this year.

“This is just right up my alley,” he said. “It’s a grind. It’s a golf course that requires a lot of patience, a lot of different shots and just being mentally tough, which is one of my strengths. That’s something that I look forward to every year. You don’t have to go crazy low and you just enjoy it, be creative and have fun.”