

2025 Men's Amateur



June 25-27

Paradise Canyon Country Club

Brett Jones

2024 Alberta Men's Amateur
Champion



Q: When you reflect on your victory at the Alberta Men's Amateur Championship at The Derrick Golf & Winter Club, what memories are most vivid?

Jones: "Winning it was definitely really cool, and having my dad as the caddie was really cool for the both of us."

Q: How did your dad, Clint, wind up on the bag that week? What was his impact?

Jones: "He loves caddying for me. He caddied for me in the Mickelson Invitational, the Glencoe Invitational. All the big amateur events that he could caddie for, he did. But this was his first year doing it, and it was just his second event as a caddie for me. So now, just keep doing that. He loves it. I love it. It's nice father-son bonding. He's been playing with me since I was four years old, so he knows my game really well and he knows what I'm capable of and what not to do. He can talk me in and out of some shots."

Q: Take us back to that playoff ... You go to overtime against Barrett Jarosch, a guy who has played a ton of professional tour events. What was that like?

Jones: "He's a very accomplished golfer, played on the Korn Ferry Tour for numerous years, so he definitely has a lot of skill. I played with him that whole day and he didn't really miss a shot all day. He kept applying pressure to me. I was actually leading through the front nine and then we had a two-shot swing — he made a birdie, I made a bogey — and then he got two up on me with three holes to go and I climbed back. In the playoff, I knew he wasn't going to make any mistakes, so I had to be very solid. There were a lot of people watching, so it was a little nerve-wracking, but I was very happy to get it done."

Q: Knowing that the Alberta Men's Amateur is one of the marquee events in this province, what did it mean to hoist that trophy?

Jones: "It's something I've always wanted to win. I didn't think I'd win it at such a young age, so it's nice that I'll get a couple more goes at it. Hopefully, I'm going to hoist it again this year."

Jones, a member at Glencoe Golf & Country Club in Calgary, was the only player in the field to fire three consecutive rounds in the 60s, signing for a total tab of 6-under 204. The 17-year-old cinched his title with a par on the third playoff hole.

Alberta Men's Amateur Past Champions

2024 - Brett Jones

2023 – Ethan Wilson

2022 – Brady McKinlay

2021 – Braden O'Grady

2020 – Michael Valk

Alberta Men's Amateur Interprovincial Team

2024 – Finished (3rd)

Brett Jones

Jace Ouellette

Devin Kucy

The Amateur's Return to **Paradise**

By Taylor Tracey

A lot has changed in amateur golf since 1993. The disappearance of the balata ball, the creation of the hybrid, and a person only needs to catch one glimpse of a PGA Tour broadcast to recognize the change in fashion. More specifically amateur golf in Alberta in 1993 was amid a changing of the guard with the next crop of players, names like Wes Heffernan, Ryan Yip, Mike Mezei, Scott Stiles, Barrett Jarsoch, and James Love all about to burst on the scene. What has not changed is the annual running of the Alberta Men's Amateur Championship and for the 113th playing of this prestigious event, the 'Amateur' will see its return to Paradise Canyon Country Club, the first time since 1993.



"We're excited to be back on the schedule, and we're really looking forward to seeing what the top amateurs can do down here". Remarked Matt Barkway, Executive Golf Professional at Paradise Canyon Country Club.

The course hasn't undergone many significant changes since the last time the Men's Amateur was held at Paradise, with the only major change coming with a lengthening of hole #9 in the early 2000's mentions Barkway. The course has stood the test of time and has proven its ability to test the top players of any level. The course hosted the 2008 Canadian Men's Amateur with future PGA Tour players Adam Hadwin, Nick Taylor, and Corey Connors all playing in the field. Paradise also hosted the Lethbridge Paradise Canyon Open for two years which was an Alberta tour stop on the PGA Tour Canada.

"The last one (industry event) would have been the PGA Tour Canada event in 2018 and 2019. That event really showed the difference between the top level amateur and borderline professionals. Scott Stiles played the 2008 Canadian Men's Amateur here and the winner may have been -5 or -6 and then the PGA Tour guys shot low 60's every day. So the quality of golf was vastly different".

Matt Barkway has been at Paradise Canyon for a long time, first as a member of the back shop, then as an Assistant/Associate Professional for seven years, and now as Executive Golf Professional. Barkway has played in numerous competitive events as a pro including the Canadian Tour and the Gateway Tour Winter Series and knows what it will take to succeed at his course.

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One stretch that Barkway thinks will play a major role in a player's pursuit of the Charles Scott Memorial Trophy is how they begin their rounds on the back nine. Holes 10, 11, and 12 all offer tough challenges especially when the wind direction is brought into a player's decision.

Hole #12, Paradise Canyon's signature hole, is a 148-yard par three that is sure to play a major role in deciding the 113th champion. With an elevated tee box, players will have a beautiful view with the Old Man River in the background and the coulees surrounding them. What awaits them in their club selection is more anxiety inducing than beautiful. Deep bunkers in front, the 100 feet of elevation change from tee to green, a steep slope running into the river behind, deep fescue on the left, and badlands on the right. Bring in the famous Lethbridge winds that can get up to 80km/h and a missed green here could be disastrous.

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"The first time I ever played it (Hole #12) was with a slight north wind where I hit sand wedge to a front pin. On Day 2, it was a Lethbridge south wind, and I roasted a knock down 4-iron and I was in the middle of the green. So, you can run into that."

With beautiful views provided by the coulees surrounding the course and the Old Man River, Barkway stresses that while they're in the city of Lethbridge it doesn't feel that way when you drive down the hill into the course. In 1993, only one year after its opening, Paradise Canyon provided this same feeling to the best players in Alberta. In 2025 the same will be said for the current crop of top amateurs in Alberta as they begin their preparations for the 113th Men's Amateur Championship when it kicks off on June 25th. ■