



Photo by Mark Tatem

Playing catch-up: Zoltan Veress on the 12 at Belmont Hills yesterday. Veress and Jim Zwolak are three-shots behind leader Kirk Hanefeld going into today's final round of the Gosling's Invitational.

Hanefeld makes hay while the sun shines

By Josh Ball

Kirk Hanefeld did quite a lot of moving in the third round of the Gosling's Invitational.

The defending champion tore Belmont Hills apart, firing a course-record eight-under par 62 yesterday to storm into a three-shot lead.

On a calm sunny day, when the Warwick course was at its most tame, Hanefeld took full advantage, clattering in seven-birdies and an eagle, along with a solitary bogey at the par-three 11.

The impact of his round was heightened by the failure of the half-way leaders to match his impressive scoring, with Billy Walsh shooting a one-over par 71, PH Horgan III carded a two-over 72, while Zoltan Veress had to settle for an even-par 70.

Of the three, Veress, who is five-under for the tournament, remains Hanefeld's closest professional challenger alongside fellow Canadian Jim Zwolak who did some shifting of his own in his four-under par 66.

The two Canadians however aren't as close as Bermudian amateur Terrance Daniels, who carded a four-under 66 of his own, and is six-under for the tournament, just two-shots back from Hanefeld.

At one stage, as he was in the



Photo by Tamell Simons

Flashback: Kirk Hanefeld kisses the winner's trophy after claiming a two-shot victory in the 2009 Gosling's Invitational at Belmont Hills.

second round, Daniels was leading the tournament after completing the front nine at five-under.

Once again though the back nine proved his undoing, and back-to-back bogies on 16 and 17 saw him finish at four-under.

Hanefeld began the day tied for 10, on level-par after opening rounds of 69 and 71, but he flew out of the traps and never looked back.

A birdie at the par-four second, was followed by three consecutive birdies at four, five and

six. Having made the turn at four-under, Hanefeld then eagled the short, par-four 10, but then gave a shot back on 11.

It was to be his only slip of the day, as he then rattled off birdies at 13, 14 and 18.

With a three-shot lead Hanefeld will fancy his chances of defending his title, but he'll know how difficult final rounds at Belmont can be.

Delroy Cambridge held a two-shot lead going into last year's final round and lost by two shots, while Brian McCann, who was

five shots behind Hanefeld eventually only trailed him by three in the final reckoning.

Hanefeld, Daniels and Zwolak are in the final group for today's last round, with the trio going out at 11.26am, just ahead of Veress, Walsh and Danny King.

As in past years the event is likely to go down to the wire, although the organisers have tried to ensure any play-off won't take place in the dark, groups will tee-off from one and 10 today.

Whatever happens Daniels is likely to win the amateur event, he has a healthy lead over Nick Mansell who is second in that flight, on nine-over par.

Jeffrey Lindo meanwhile looks almost certain to claim his fourth consecutive senior title, he's 11-over for the tournament, 10 shots ahead of American Glenn Kelley.

Michael Sims made a slow start in his bid to regain a tour card in California yesterday.

Playing at the Crooked Cat course in Orange County, Sims struggled to a three-over par 75, 10-shots behind first round leader Kyle Stanley.

Starting on 10, Sims had a double-bogey at the par-three 15, got a shot back at 16, but then went back to two-over on 18. It was a similar story on the front nine, where he birdied four, but then bogeyed the next two holes.