

## Foreign players dominate quarterfinals of Cotton States

Three of tournament's four semifinalists come from overseas

By Matthew Reynolds

[mareynolds@monroe.gannett.com](mailto:mareynolds@monroe.gannett.com)

A gallery of fans watched as ULM junior David McKendrick battled his way into the semifinals of the 56th W.E. (Winnie) Cole Cotton States on Friday.

McKendrick cruised in his morning match against fellow Australian Daniel Popovic, handing Popovic an overwhelming 6 and 5 defeat. The win set up a quarterfinal match against yet another Australian — Texas Tech's Jake Younan-Wise.

The Warhawk golfer jumped out to a three-hole lead early, winning the first three holes. McKendrick would lose a one hole over the remainder of the front nine, putting him 2 up.

"I was hitting it decent on the front but wasn't leaving myself short birdie putts," the 22-year-old said. "I knew if I just played my game, I would be all right."

McKendrick's putter was consistent throughout the back and eventually closed the match out on the par-3 16th, winning the quarterfinal match 3 and 1. The second-year letterman played consistent throughout the entire day — posting just one bogey throughout the day.

McKendrick will face Georgia State's Derek Oakey in the semifinals at 8:10 a.m. today. Oakey, an Atlanta native, took 19 holes to put away Texas State Amateur champion Charlie Holland. Oakey handled TCU's Scott Roudebush 3 and 2 in his quarterfinal match.

Top-seeded Oliver Bekker continued to roll on Friday, grinding out a win against Southern Nazarene player Blake Trimble that took 20 holes.

"Most of my matches this week have been down to the wire," the South African native said. "I'm happy I've been able to keep the wins going."

Bekker faced off against University of Arkansas golfer Jason Cuthbertson in a close quarterfinal match. Bekker had a 1 up lead going into the 14 holes. On the par-3 15th — Bekker's beautiful shot landing 12 feet from the hole — was trumped by Cuthbertson's laser wedge that left him just three feet for birdie.



Leigh Deagan, who plays top-seeded Oliver Bekker in the semifinals today, won both his Friday matches on the last hole.

After Bekker lipped out his birdie and Cuthbertson made his making them all-square, the tide seemed to be turning.

"I was a little worried because at that point it seemed like the momentum was shifting," the third team All-America said.

Bekker — as he has done all week — stood up to the pressure and won holes 16 and 17, closing out the match 2 and 1.

"I felt like I played well because I made seven birdies this afternoon," said Bekker. "I also had five bogeys though, and I would like to eliminate those."

Bekker meets the 170th ranked amateur in the world — Australian Leigh Deagan — in the second semifinal match at 8:10 a.m. today.

Deagan — who finished seventh at the Rice Planters Tournament last year — defeated University of Memphis' Jordan Payne on the last hole. It was down to the wire again in Deagan's quarterfinal match, as he won the 18th hole to get a victory against Lamar product Russell Helson.

After the morning semifinal matches, the two winners will square off for the coveted title this afternoon.

**Originally published June 23, 2007**