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Iowans Chad Proehl-Jay Giannetto Make Three Eagles, Shoot 60 to Lead PGA Senior-Junior Team Championship

By CRAIG DOLCH

Special to PGA of America

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PORT ST. LUCIE (Jan. 27, 2020) - You have to make a boatload of birdies to win the PGA Senior-Junior Team Championship at PGA Golf Club.

Making three eagles doesn't hurt, either.

That's what the Iowa-based team of Chad Proehl of Urbandale and Jay Giannetto of Marshalltown did Monday on the Ryder Course. Giannetto chipped in for eagle on the par-5 third hole and Proehl rolled in 40-foot eagle putts on the sixth and 13th holes, enabling them to shoot a 12-under 60 and take a one-shot lead after the first round.

"And my partner's chip on 17 stopped just short of the hole or we would have had eagles on all four par-5s," said Proehl, a PGA Teaching Professional at Sugar Creek Golf Club. "Obviously, it was our day. We're just trying to get those shots close and all three of them went in."

They shot a 60 despite a bogey on the par-4 ninth hole. They made six pars and closed with a pair of birdies.

"We left a couple out there, but we also stole a couple," Proehl said.

Proehl and Giannetto lead by a shot over three teams: Walt Chapman and Casey Flenniken of Knoxville, Tenn.; Frank Dully of Salem, Mass., and Matt Zdon of Lowell, Mass.; and Todd Scarafoni of Rockport, Mass., and Robert Bruso of Shrewsbury, Mass. All three teams made 11 birdies and seven pars for their 61s.

Two teams are tied for fifth place at 62: David Carich-Michael Asbell and Mike Martin-Peter Ballo.

The 148 two-man teams play a round over the Ryder, Wanamaker and Dye Courses before a cut to the top 40 and ties for Thursday's final round on the Wanamaker. Forty-two teams shot 6-under or better Monday.

"You have to keep making birdies," Proehl said.

Or eagles.

The PGA Winter Championships are presented by GolfPass and PrimeSport.

Media Contact:

Pat Kravitz, PGA of America, pkravitz@pgahq.com