

He crushes the ball off the tee and putts with great care and confidence, but the best part about Tim Feenstra's golf game are the approach shots.

During the 81st **Washington Open** Invitational, he easily chatted up his playing partners; had time for his girlfriend, Sunny Rockom, at the turn; walked up the 13th fairway with one college teammate, Casey Granston, in shorts and flops; engaged yet another, Josh Immordino, before and after teeing up on the 17th; and even offered an unsolicited hello to a Seattle P-I sportswriter between holes.

Some golfers get wound so tight in competition, they put up a force field around them for five hours, scowling and muttering at any little intrusion into their fairway world.

Not Feenstra. On Wednesday, the former Western **Washington** All-American and newly designated golf pro was like a pied piper, inviting everyone and anyone who was interested to accompany him around Glendale Country Club while he systematically destroyed the field with a six-stroke victory and collected the \$5,000 first prize.

Nothing bothered him. Not the 2-footer he had rim the cup on the 11th, not the three-putt from 11 feet two holes later.

Feenstra, 24, just shrugged off the rare final-round setback and served notice he can play with the best local golfers around, and possibly others at a higher level, though he's not necessarily pining for it.

This is the same ah-shucks guy who last summer turned in a courageous run at the U.S. Amateur Public Links, losing in a semifinals playoff. While everyone else around him was making plans for PGA Tour qualifying school, the laid-back Lynden native said he was looking for a club job.

Three months ago, Feenstra was hired as an assistant pro at The Tournament Players Course at Snoqualmie Ridge. Note to his new employers: Hang on to him if you can; it might not be long.

In his first major Northwest event, Feenstra shot rounds of 68, 68 and 67 to finish with a three-day total of 10-under-par 203. He never trailed over the final 12 holes. He had never seen the golf course until two months ago, when a couple of practice rounds were offered.

"I had good vibes coming into the week," he said. "Of course, you're always trying to win. You're not going to enter an event to play second."

Feenstra lapped the field, leaving fellow second-round co-leader John Cassidy, former Mariners pitcher Erik Hanson and former **Washington** golfer Derek Berg, all competing as amateurs, as distant runners-up at 4-under 209. Immordino, the defending champion and another one-time WWU All-American, shared fifth place, shooting 211.

Next fall, Immordino will enter the aforementioned tour qualifying school, every young golfer's temptation. His goals are to have his game in order for this big step and take Feenstra with him.

"I'd like to get him to come with me," Immordino said. "He should go. Before this (**Open**), I thought he was the best player in the section that nobody knew about. Now they know him."

Feenstra turned in a 15- birdie, five-bogey week, an exemplary performance at any level. He made sure to thank everyone at Glendale for having him there. As for his next outing, he mentioned something about checking his TPC work schedule and seeing when he could get free again.

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