

# Montclair's McGowan wins State Amateur

## GOLF

BY MIKE MORETTI  
FOR THE STAR-LEDGER

As his 45-foot downhill, speeding birdie putt slid into the cup on the par-3 16th hole yesterday, Mark McGowan of Montclair flashed back to another major moment in his athletic career.

"I had a vision of scoring the winning touchdown with under a minute to play against Lafayette back in 1987," said the 37-year-old McGowan, a two-time All-America quarterback at Lehigh University during the 1980s.

The 45-footer at the Mountain Ridge Country Club in West Caidwell put McGowan on the verge of his finest day on the golf course. Two holes later, he wrapped up a 75 for a 72-hole total of 4-over-par 288

and won the 104th New Jersey State Golf Association Amateur Championship.

McGowan, who had taken a four-stroke lead into yesterday morning's third round and extended it to seven with a 72, won by three strokes over clubmate Michael Deo and by four over the 53-year-old defending champion, Allan Small of Fairmount.

It was Small's brother, Hank, who, as head football coach at Lehigh, inserted McGowan as the starting quarterback four games into his sophomore season in 1986. As a senior, McGowan propelled Lehigh to the No. 1 offensive ranking in the nation.

"My coach said you've got to deliver, and to do it you've got to envision yourself winning and, when you do, act like you've been there before," McGowan said. "But if that putt didn't hit the heart of the cup,

it was into the pond."

The birdie at No. 16 was an answer to Small's birdie at the 15th, which pulled the defender to within three strokes of the lead. Meanwhile, Deo, now a three-time Amateur runner-up, was working on a 70 and a charge from nine strokes back after 36 holes.

"Seeing that putt drop made me totally relaxed; I finally felt the tournament was mine," McGowan said. "To beat Mike Deo and Allan Small after what they accomplished in their careers is really great for me."

McGowan doesn't expect to have much time for golf once he starts a new job on Wall Street on Monday.

"This is the biggest tournament I'll compete in this year," he said.

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## NJSGA AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

### FINAL

Mark McGowan, Montclair	71-70-72-75-288	James Sioris, Tewitstock	75-74-73-85-307
Michael Deo, Montclair	72-70-71-76-291	Rick Garrigan, Forest Hill	78-77-77-76-308
Allan Small, Fairmount	72-74-75-71-292	Bruce Henry, Fortgate	75-81-77-76-309
Ryan McCarthy, Little Mill	75-75-71-71-295	Dave LeVelle, N.J. National	79-76-73-76-309
Greg Stebbins, Ridgewood	75-81-89-85-294	Eric LeFante, Hominy Hill	75-76-77-84-311
Craig Smith, Fairmount	78-74-75-75-297	Jay Buchanan, Mountain Ridge	75-81-81-75-312
Harry Gosh Sr., Ash Brook	75-77-77-74-298	John Dan, Arcola	75-83-78-78-312
Chris Gold, Lake Hill	72-75-72-75-299	Bill Ely, Lake Nottawak	78-77-80-79-314
Barry Wiseran, Pryce Brook	74-74-75-75-299	Nick Deesi, Pryce Brook	75-78-81-82-315
Mike Tean, Tewitstock	74-71-82-79-299	Sean Gullis, Java Ridge	77-78-82-80-317
John Capra, Scanton Ridge	75-77-77-71-300	Samik Sanna, Delhi	75-78-81-83-319
Brent Pittman, Darlington	75-75-77-71-301	Dean Gustin, Pettit County	73-77-77-83-321
Jason Battelle, Fairfield West	75-72-71-80-302		
Steven Greshner, Ash Brook	75-75-77-79-302		
Wes Hantula, Cance Brook	79-76-71-79-302		
Ron Verneis, Netusha	79-71-81-72-302		
Mark Usher, Pine Barrens	78-74-75-74-302		
Tom Gramigna, Tavistock	79-74-77-73-302		
David Rocco, Echo Lake	71-81-74-77-303		
Pat Gillan, Shark River	75-75-79-71-303		
John Pizer, Mountain View	76-75-81-71-303		
Ryan Garcia, Fortgate	75-75-79-81-303		
L. Benedetto, Nether Oaks	71-70-75-75-303		
Bob Wouder, Manasquan River	75-75-78-74-304		
Brian Hoffman, Rolling Greens	75-79-80-71-304		
Mike Koval, Ridge at Back Brook	75-74-77-75-304		
Sean Leonard, Tewitstock	77-79-73-76-304		
Shad Marone, Howell Park	73-74-75-77-304		
Bill McGuinness, Tewitstock	80-75-83-81-315		
Steve Boyd, Balauro	76-73-79-73-305		
Nat Keitrock, Forest Hill	74-83-75-80-307		