



Justin Holyszko hoists the Championship Flight trophy at the Bay County Golf Championship for the eighth time.

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**HAMPTON TOWNSHIP, MI** – The Justin Holyszko Era isn't over yet.

And it just might be a long way from over.

The preeminent player of the Bay County Golf Championship over the past two decades, Holyszko suddenly seemed overshadowed the past couple years as Brent Goik returned to the amateur scene and claimed back-to-back titles.

But Holyszko showed Sunday that he remains the tournament's must-see player, coming out of the second-to-last pairing to win Championship Flight honors for the eighth time in his illustrious career.

“I wanted to prove to everybody that I still had it,” he said.

Holyszko began the day two strokes behind first-round leader and 2011 champion Andrew Janke, and also had two-time champion Scott DeWyse and Eli Parrent ahead of him on the leaderboard. But as he's done repeatedly throughout his reign, Holyszko posted the low score of the day on Sunday to take the title.

He followed his opening-round 75 with a 2-under-par 70 on Sunday to finish at 145, four shots ahead of Janke (149) and six in front of DeWyse (151) and Goik (151).

The 39-year-old Academy Mortgage loan officer revealed a glimpse that this title may have been extra special after two years out of the spotlight. Normally stoic whether things are going poorly or well, he broke out a wide smile on the 18th green as wife Crystal and their three young children -- Stella, Carson and Olivia -- danced out to greet their favorite champion

“Yeah, I usually stay pretty focused on the golf course,” he said.

“But it was exciting because the kids kind of know what’s going on now. They know I’m in a golf tournament and they knew I won. Hopefully it’s something they’ll remember.”



Justin Holyszko is greeted by his family on the 18th hole after winning the Bay County Golf Championship.

The former Bay City Western and Northwood University standout is doing his part to make certain he's long remembered in the tradition-rich Bay County Championship, which was first won by Emmett Kelly 100 years ago.

With his eighth title, Holyszko surpassed Dr. Eugene Hand – who won his final crown in 1937 – and now trails only 12-time champion John Tews and 11-time champion Jerry Snable among the all-time victors.

After winning just one title in the past five years – a dryspell in his book – and going winless in this year's Halub Cup for the first time ever, some were wondering if Holyszko's days of excellence had passed. But not those who have witnessed it first-hand over the years.

“If anybody deserves this, it's Justin,” said Goik, the former pro who missed a chance to become the sixth player in tourney history to win three in a row. “He is a class act.

“You can't count him out no matter where he's at. With the family and kids and everything, he's not playing as much as he used to. But you can see that whether he's playing or not, he's going to be a factor.”

Holyszko opened the final round with back-to-back bogeys that had him three strokes behind Janke, DeWyse and Parrent. But he turned it on

No. 10.

“That was key because I missed some short birdie putts,” he said. “So draining some long ones definitely helps.”

And with nobody else tearing up the course – Holyszko and Second Flight champ Joe Heintskill were the only players in the 140-player field to break par on the day – he was able to hoist the trophy for the eighth time.

Janke continues to show he is among the area’s elite players. Owner of the competitive course record when he shot a 65 during the 2014 Halub Cup, Janke was on pace to become a two-time Bay County champion after his opening-round 73.

He came back with a respectable 76 on Sunday but was forced to settle for his fourth runner-up finish. Only Tom Rezler (6) and Holyszko (5) have posted more second-place finishes since the tournament moved to Bay County Golf Course in 1968.

## **CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT**

Justin Holyszko 75-70 -- 145

Andrew Janke 73-76 -- 149

Scott DeWyse 74-77 -- 151

Brent Goik 77-74 -- 151

Nick Spencer 75-77 -- 152

Scott Miller 79-73 -- 152

Eli Parrent 74-80 -- 154

Greg Licht 75-79 -- 154

Ryan Ratynski 81-73 -- 154

Ian Villeneuve 80-76 -- 156

Jon Dammer 78-83 -- 161

Robert Marsh 84-78 -- 162

Eli Rytlewski 80-87 -- 167

Gabriel Schaefer 81-87 -- 168

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