

Burros' Devon Bling cards 74 at CIF-SS regional, advances to finals

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Anthony Gentile/Daily IndependentBurroughs freshman golfer Devon Bling

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"That's awesome right there — give him an A-plus for that," Burros head coach Dave Sappington said. "It's not an easy task."

Bling advanced despite shooting his highest score of the high school season, and finished tied for 13th with six other golfers. The top 20 out of 113 golfers advanced from the regional, and the final two spots were determined by a six-man playoff — Bling missed the playoff by one shot.

"It's the first time he's ever seen this course before — we went down there on Sunday, he putted around on the putting green, he chipped a little bit and we just hung out," Sappington said. "He does this quite often, so it's nothing new for him."

Bling's round included five birdies, five bogeys and one double bogey — he advances to the CIF-SS Individual Finals on Tuesday, May 27 at Mission Lakes Country Club in Desert Hot Springs. The last time a Burroughs golfer advanced to the second round of CIF-SS individual play was in the late 1990s.

"It wasn't his best round of golf, but he definitely got the job done," Sappington said.

Burroughs sophomore Daryn Johnson shot an 87 on Monday to finish in a three-way tie for 84th overall. Johnson has qualified for the individual tournament each of the past two seasons.

"Daryn played well — he had never played the course before. He gave it his best like he always does and he didn't complain — he took his medicine and swallowed," Sappington said. "He's going to play a lot more tournaments in the summer — he's going to be better next year and have more tournament experience."

Sappington said both golfers delivered solid performances on the pressure-filled stage Monday. He added that tournament experience is key to success at the CIF level.

"Once you get past league, you get out of your comfort zone and now you're in there playing against kids that are as good if not better," Sappington said. "And they only take a certain amount, so now all of a sudden there's a lot more pressure."

Burroughs begins postseason team play on Monday in the CIF-SS Eastern Division Team Championship Tournament at Jurupa Hills Country Club in Riverside — Bling, Johnson, Ryan McKellar, Jon Knehans, Andrew Khouri and Subber Dhillon will represent BHS. The top two teams from each of the seven divisions advance to the CIF-SS SCGA Team Qualifier on May 27.