

Burros' Devon Bling has postseason run end at CIF SoCal Championship

PASADENA — For Burroughs golfer Devon Bling, a historic 2014 season came to an end just shy of making the cut for the state championship. The Burros freshman shot a 2-over-par 74 in the CIF/SCGA SoCal Regional Championship on Monday at Brookside Golf Club's C.W. Koiner Course No. 1, and missed advancing by two stroke



Anthony Gentile/Daily Independent Burroughs freshman golfer Devon Bling digs his ball out of a sand trap on the 17th hole at Brookside Golf Club's C.W. Koiner Course No. 1 on Monday during the CIF/SCGA SoCal Regional Championship. Bling shot a 74 to finish tied for 21st.

By Anthony Gentile
SPORTS EDITOR
agentile@ridgecrestca.com
Posted Jun. 4, 2014 @ 1:30 pm

PASADENA — For Burroughs golfer Devon Bling, a historic 2014 season came to an end just shy of making the cut for the state championship. The Burros freshman shot a 2-over-par 74 in the CIF/SCGA SoCal Regional Championship on Monday at Brookside Golf Club's C.W. Koiner Course No. 1, and missed advancing by two strokes.

"It was exciting and he had a great run — he did a great job," Burros head coach Dave Sappington said. "He's got nothing to hang his head low for. I know he was disappointed because it didn't happen — he was right there."

Bling finished tied for 21st overall with the 2-over-par round at the public course perhaps better known as the parking lot for events held at the adjacent Rose Bowl. Six players that shot even par had a playoff the last five spots — a total of 14 golfers advanced to the CIF/CGA State Championship from Monday's round, including nine individuals not with a team.

"That course was in awesome shape considering it was a public course," Sappington said. "It was right there to be had — it was flat, there was no mystery to it, it wasn't super tricky. It's a good course, and it was surprising that nobody shot super low."

Sage Cassaga of Murrieta Valley (Murrieta) shot a 4-under-par 68 to win the SoCal individual championship. Westlake (Westlake Village) won the team title with an 11-over-par 371 — Rancho Bernardo (San Diego) and Mater Dei (Santa Ana) also advanced.

Bling had the second-lowest score in his group, which started play on the first hole. Tyler Burnes of Centennial (Bakersfield) shot a 73, Clay Feagler of Dana Hills (Dana Point) carded a 75, and Ashwin Arasu of Canyon Crest Academy (San Diego) finished with a 78.

On the front nine, Bling shot even par with one birdie and one bogey. His birdie came on the par-4 second hole, and his bogey came as the result of a three-putt on the par-4 eighth.

Bling began the back nine with a bogey on the 10th hole, but put his score back at even par three holes later with a birdie on the par-3 13th. He was in position to make the cut with four holes remaining, but bogeys on two of those four brought his postseason run to an end — a two-putt after his tee

shot found a greenside bunker on the par-3 17th ended any realistic chance of making the playoff.

“He hit the ball well enough to advance — he just didn’t have a hot putter,” Sappington said. “He’s been putting well all season long, and the past three weeks his putter hasn’t been there for him.”