

Brown captures Mountain Lakes Classic

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — After winning a tour-high four times last season, Brandon Brown showed his 2011 campaign wasn't a fluke Sunday afternoon at Cross Creek Plantation.

The Shelbyville, Ky., native fired a 7-under 64 in the final round of the

Mountain Lakes Classic to force a playoff with 54-hole leader Nick Rousey and earned his sixth career National Golf Association Tour victory on the third extra hole.

"It was an awesome

day," said Brown, who earned \$22,000 for the victory. "I knew I needed to get off to a good start and I did. I was just fortunate enough to play a good round when Nick didn't have his best stuff."

After playing the 18th hole 2-over par in the previous three rounds, Rousey went to the final hole of regulation needing a birdie to force extra holes, and he got it.

Brown and Rousey both recorded pars on the first playoff hole and bogeys on the second before Brown won with a par on the third.

"I just tried to stay positive going into the playoff," Brown said. "I've been around the lead enough to know you're going to lose more than you win, but I wasn't thinking about losing."

Brown's win was his sixth on the NGA Tour and pushed him into a tie for fifth on the all-time wins list.

Brown started the final round seven shots behind Rousey, but the former Eastern Kentucky standout needed just six holes to pull into contention.

Brown carded back-to-

back birdies to start the day and added three in a row on Nos. 4, 5 and 6.

"When you start seven shots back, you're not looking to win," Brown said. "But with five birdies in the first six holes, that was the momentum I needed."

Rousey, of Pensacola, Fla., entered the final round with a three-shot lead, but the Alabama alumnus and three-time NGA Tour winner was unable to maintain the form that produced rounds of 67, 66 and 67 over the first three days.



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Brandon Brown, second from left, of Shelbyville, Ky., receives the winner's check Sunday at the Mountain Lakes Classic at Cross Creek Plantation in Seneca. Brown shot a 7-under-par 64 in the final round to force a playoff with Nick Rousey, and then won on the third playoff hole. Cross Creek head pro Mark Ernst is second from right.