

CLASSIC of New Orleans

String of closing holes trips up Swiss player

Rominger was in picture before five straight bogeys

By Brian Allee-Walsh
Staff writer

A day after becoming the first Swiss to make a cut on the PGA Tour, Martin Rominger got broadsided by a bogey train in the third round of the Zurich Classic of New Orleans.

Coasting along Saturday at 1 under through 12 holes, 4 under for the tournament, Rominger posted consecutive bogeys at Nos. 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 for a 4-over-par 76 and is at 1-over 217 after 54 holes.

Rominger, a native of Pontresina, Switzerland, is playing in New Orleans on a sponsor's exemption. The home offices of Zurich Financial Services Group are in Zurich, Switzerland.

"They wanted to have a Swiss guy in the tournament, and I came," said Rominger, who turned professional in 2005 after playing at South Carolina. "I



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN POAG

Swiss player Martin Rominger is participating in the Zurich Classic of New Orleans on a sponsor's exemption. The home offices of Zurich Financial Group Services are in Switzerland.

played here last year and became the first Swiss person to play in a PGA Tour event."

Rominger, who plays on the Asian Tour, made the cut after rounds of 73 and 68.

"I was pleased," he said. "I was able to play the way I wanted to yesterday (Friday). Actually, my first round was good, too. I just didn't manage to make all the putts I wanted to."

Though a regular member on the Asian Tour, Rominger isn't a household name in Switzerland.

"We probably have four or five (golfers) competing on a pro tour but no major tour," said Rominger, 27. "Golf is not that famous in Switzerland. If I have a few more good results, then possibly, maybe get Switzerland more interested in golf as well."

Zurich Financial Services CEO James Schiro described Rominger as "a great young man and a real gentleman."

"We're really proud of Martin," said Schiro, who resides in Ruschlikon, Switzerland. "I know the people back home and all the golf clubs back home in Switzerland are really happy for him."

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