

"I was starting to get a little flustered," Gann said. "All week, I've done a good job of not showing emotions until this backside. I let him get to me."

But the Wichita State golfer managed to stay composed enough to keep tied after 18 holes and sink a putt on a 19th hole to close the match.

He will now play Purdue senior Nakarintra "Boom" Ratanakul, who has gained other golfers' and Cotton States officials' respect as one of the favorites to win.

Ratanakul defeated LSU junior Austin Gutgsell on Friday morning and Haden Stephens in the afternoon to advance.

"I've hit the ball really good the last three days," Ratanakul said. "The afternoon was a really challenging match. I played in the same group with him and he didn't hit it really good, but he stepped up and took me to the 17th hole when I had five birdies and one eagle."

While he and Gann aren't as familiar with one another other as Jones and Looper, the two have become acquainted after past tournaments and were paired for first-round matchups paired earlier this week.

"It's going to be kind of weird because I always talk and make fun, but I think after the tee shot it's just going to be silent," Ratanakul said. "As soon as we get to be opponent, I don't want to make my opponent feel comfortable playing. You want to put the pressure on him."

A win going away: Looper claims Cotton States title with one hole left

The W.E. Cole Cotton States golf tournament's first-place trophy is back in the hands of a Louisianian for the first time since 2001.