

Jacksonville Junior Open

Jacksonville Golf and Country Club

Tournament Story

June 27, 2016

Whether the NFJG Junior Tour players played well or struggled with their game during the round at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club I know I would be hard pressed to find one player who would say they were not happy to return to the outstanding club to take on the challenges of the course. The golf course was immaculate, a joy play and a great experience for the first timer. With greens nearly 11 on the stimpmeter and weather conditions perfect, 71 NFJG TOUR players would hit the links with nothing but good intentions and positive thoughts of shooting one of their best rounds and hitting some of the purest shots ever.

Ask Austin Evans. Evans would be one of many players who would play well, but would not take home a reward for this outstanding play. Fourteen pars would not be good enough because of an unfortunate nine on the nerve racking dog-leg right, par-4 fourth hole. That hole can make a grown man cry if not played correctly and would make Evans good round look so-so when one just looked at the final score. Many years ago, that same hole gave me nightmares when I played in an Assistants Championship. Starting on the 10th and three under through 12 holes of play I came to the 4th hole to leave with a 12 on my scorecard. My pro score of 82 was nowhere near the caliber of golf I was playing, but that's golf! Thought I'd share.

Or how about two eagles on two of the best defended par-5 holes around. Hayden Smith would join the "EAGLE" Club as he, not only had one eagle on the par-5 8th hole, but he captured another on the par-5 16th hole. Better yet, how about Eric Poehlman, who on the par-3 6th hole struck the purest shot ever. His playing partner Nick Lesesne would be first to approach and hit a great shot to four feet on the 154-yard par-3. Poehlman, said after congratulating Lesesne on a great shot that he challenged himself to get inside that shot and that he did, as he recorded his first hole-in-one. A pure 8-iron would find the bottom of the cup. A great shot indeed and one to remember for a lifetime, but would the perfect shot reap the rewards of some \$1390.00 lying in wait for a HIO Club Member to claim. After reviewing the membership list we would reveal the funds would remain as Poehlman was not a registered member in the club. Still the shot is priceless!

Let's not stop there. How about a two under par 70 by Griffin Pickett for the low round of the day and his first win of the season. With 16 players in the division field Pickett would enjoy four birdies against only two bogeys and earn himself the title as Champion of the Boys 16-18 Division. Pickett would credit his outstanding play to just keeping it consistent with great ball striking.

Kyle Jewett would start his day out with a double bogey, double bogey to turn things around to shot 77 and claim the Runner-up medal. Ryan Williams would come in one back of Jewett at 78 to capture the Bronze medal.

The Girls 13-18 Division would have another solid field of 11 players. Josie Arant, playing in her first NFJG TOUR event would make a statement and let players know that she had game. Arant battled to the end with two time champion Tori Mouton who both would tie at 79. Elizabeth Fuentes would double bogey the 4th and 5th holes, but would rebound to shoot 39 on her back nine to fire an 81 to earn a third place finish. Mouton and Arant tied at 79 would go to the 18th hole for the sudden death play-off. Arant would be the victor after two hole of play. Mouton would settle for the Runner-up spot.

Our Elite Tour Boys 13-15 would show grit and determination and never give up. This one was anyone's to win. Nick Lesesne would birdie four holes but run into trouble on the 10th and 16th holes. Timothy Cook would be flawless through eight holes of play and would be three strokes ahead of the field, but a double bogey on the tough ninth hole would allow the entire field to catch up. Patrick Tucker would be one to make a charge. A birdie at the par-3 17th hole would bring a dividend of gold as he would nip Cook by one at three over par 75. Cook (76) would take the Silver and Lesesne (77) would take Bronze.

Our Rising Tour Boys 13-15 Division would be the largest field of the day and would find another two-time champion in Rowen Parker. Parker coming off a great win at the St. Johns Golf and Country Clubs obviously likes playing the country clubs and on fast greens. Parker would have four birdies on the day and admitted he was striking the ball well. Hayden Smith, would play well, but would be up and down at times. His two eagles on the day would make up for some errant shots that went astray. Smith's second eagle of the day on the 16th hole would be enough to capture the Silver Medal. Hunter Boahn would be nothing but elated as he had placed around his neck his first ever NFJG TOUR Medal. Boahn would birdie the 16th to nip smiling Jack Landis (84) by one stroke to take possession of the Bronze Medal.

The Boys 10-12 would end with Lucas Slayden taking home some more Gold for his personal collection of NFJG Medals and Trophies, as he would be crowned Champion once again and for two wins in row. Slayden now a four-time champion would birdie the second hole and par eight of his back nine holes to keep two time champion Danny Erickson two strokes back and in the silver spot. This would be Erickson's fourth runner-up in a row, which certainly shows his steady play and ability to be in the thick of things every time he tees it up. Daniel Mazur would take the third spot, outshining Jackson Klauk (81) by one stroke.

The Foundation Tour would have its largest field of the year with nine players and welcomed . No stranger to the champions stand, Phillip Dunham would shoot even par 36 to take home his 16 Gold Medal of the season. Playing the back, nine Dunham would birdie the 13th and 17th holes. Gehrig Van De Water would shoot a smooth 41 to take the Silver Medal and Cam Goldknopf would shoot 44 to take the Bronze.

Many thanks to all our TOUR participants and congratulations to all our medal winners. Welcome to all our first time TOUR players: Trevor Madridejos, Rakesh Smith, Abigail Garber, Abbey Cobb, Alexander Olsen, Matthew French and Randy Cavanagh. Good Luck on TOUR.

How about a nice round of applause for the Staff at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club? As a reminder, it's always nice to send a card of thanks to the Head Golf Professional Ray Barr to show your appreciation

See you on the links!

Sincerely,

Jack Aschenbach, PGA
Executive Director