

The NFJG – North Florida Junior Amateur

World Golf Village- Slammer and Squire

Tournament Story

What an awesome two days at the World Golf Village-Slammer and Squire Golf Course. Thanks for being part of this outstanding event!

Seventy-five players (boys and girls ages 8-18) teed it up to take a shot at becoming the 2016 North Florida Junior Amateur champion on a demanding golf course, well-groomed and manicured. As you will see history will have been made that some will remember for a life time.

During the opening round Rocket Dekalskyy of the Foundation Tour, who has not played in an event since May 8th because of world travels and dedicated practice would return to the links and NFJG TOUR competition ready to take on all challengers. Dekalskyy would be the first to post an outstanding score of one over par 37 for his 9-hole event. This would be Dekalskyy's best score ever and would be good enough to enjoy a three stroke lead over Cam Goldknopf (40).

Alyzabeth Morgan, would once again be the lone Foundation Girl and this week would tee it up with boys. Morgan shot 46 for her opening round.

During the final round Dekalskyy would continue his fine play as he fired another solid round of 39 recording three birdies to take the champions trophy. Goldknopf would open his round with birdie and would also fire a nice 39 to finish in the Runner-up spot. Richard Hayden Ruth and Alyzabeth would battle for the third spot and in the end would finish in an overall tie. Both would be award the third place medal.

ACE ANYONE? Or is it Pizza Anyone?

How about another hole-in-one, yes sir-ree!

Not too long ago Eric Poehlman ACED the sixth hole at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club and during the second round at the World Golf Village – Slammer and Squire **Jabob Saarela** would hit the perfect shot on the 2nd hole of play. Using a 7-iron from 157 yards Saarela said he hit a solid shot to the green which landed to the right of the flag. Saarela said the ball hit the green and spun left and then he lost sight of the ball. He lost sight not because he knew the ball was in the hole, but rather because the pin was tucked near the rear of the green and the rise in the green prevented him from seeing the final resting spot. As the players approached the green, they did not see the ball on the green. Assuming the ball went over the green, he and his playing competitor Alexander Waller looked as far back as the woods behind the green. Not finding the ball, Waller decided to go look in the hole and there she was resting six inches down at the bottom of the cup. Both players said they were speechless, although now full of excitement they weren't sure how to react, so they finished the hole and moved on. Later Saarela would find out he was indeed in the NFJG HIO Club and the Fund was filled with a grand prize of \$1410. To celebrate his great accomplishment, Saarela has invited all in the HIO Club (at the time of the hole in

one) to partake in a pizza dinner at the Mellow Mushroom on July 26th. This per the HIO Policy. Let me know if you have any questions and I will keep you updated.

The Boys 16-18 would start with the largest field of the year. Twenty-one players including Ryan Ulmer playing in his last NFJG TOUR junior amateur, new member Jacob Soucinek from Lake City and Bangladesh native Afnan Chowdhury would highlight the field.

Ulmer would take on the heat of the day. After the second hole it was hard to figure out who really was hotter. Ulmer started his Amateur with birdies on the first and second holes to make the turn at 35. A bogey at the ninth would change the mood and Ulmer would cool down and show the other side of the golf spectrum, as he would bogey six of the next nine holes. Chowdhury would start out with bogeys at the first and second holes. He would also add a double at the 5th hole, but would birdie the 7th and then add three more birdies through 18 to get his score closer to par.

Soucinek would show his steady hand with fourteen pars, a birdie against three bogeys to shoot 74. Invited guest Chowdhury would right his ship to recover to take the lead after round one with a one over par 73, taking a one stroke lead over Soucinek and two strokes over Ulmer.

Day two would define those who were fighters, never wanting to give up. For many, round one was a nightmare and the final round was just a sign of the talent within. Brent Hamm who was visiting from upstate Georgia heard many good things about the NFJG TOUR and wanted to give it a shot. Never seeing the Slammer and Squire before the challenge was great and his first-round score of 82 was not what he would normally shoot. Hamm, not a quitter would show some of his great golf skill, as he brought it back 12 strokes to shoot a final round score of two under par 70. Four birdies on the day and a two under 34 on the final nine would make the long drive home much more manageable.

Patrick Hamlin would be the next to turn it around with a 73, 10 strokes better. Jay Adams would follow with a 74.

Chowdhury would start the second round with steady hands as he would birdie the 5th and 9th holes to turn at two under par 34. Soucinek birdie less on the front nine and now a few back would turn to a birdie at the 10th and an EAGLE at the par-5 11th hole to attack and get within one stroke of the lead. A double bogey at the 15th hole by Chowdhury would open a door for Soucinek that he would surely close behind him. Soucinek would claim the NFJG North Florida Junior Amateur and our friend from Bangladesh would secure the Runner-up position. The steady play of Ashin Chadha would allow him the third place medal.

In the Girls 13-18 Division Sarah Edwards would be the early force with birdies at the 3rd and 7th holes. Three bogeys in between the birds would give her a one over 37 at the turn tied with Katherine Jakeway who would birdie the 4th and 9th holes. Karoline Tuttle would turn on back at 38. After the turn, Tuttle would put on the heat and make her move with a birdie at the 10th and again at the 15th to take a two stroke lead over Jakeway and seven over Edwards, who ran into trouble with the tough closing holes. Alivia Mattiace and Hailey D'Olimpio would birdie two holes on their inward half, but would also struggle on some of the closing holes.

The final round would be all Karoline Tuttle as she birdied four of her first 12 holes of play to shoot a two under par 70 to take an 11 stroke advantage over Katherine Jakeway. Jakeway would continue to

play well, but a stretch of bogeys would great space between her and the leader. Edwards would birdie the second hole and manage her game much better than during round one. The outstanding effort would earn her a third place finish.

The Elite Tour Boys 13-15 would continue their stellar play as they have throughout the season. This would once again be the closest battle with keen competition. Todd Roy would EAGLE the fourth hole with a nice chip-in to take the early lead, but would run into difficulties from there on out. Jason Duff was on a young man on a mission to bring home top honors after admitting he dropped the ball at the Dr. Gordon Ira Golf Classic and was out to redeem himself. He did just that posting a one under par 71 to take a three shot lead over Justin Ortiguera (74) who opened his round with seven straight pars and a birdie at the 9th. Matthew Soucinek would have five birdies on the day in his up and down round to also post a 74. Hayden Zitzewitz, new to the Elite Tour would be another in contention to post a 74. Zitzewitz would start his round out with a birdie-birdie start. Nicholson and Carter Lewis would stay close to the leaders finishing with a round of 75.

Round two would be highlighted with a three under par round of 69 by Patrick Tucker. Tucker would birdie five holes during his fantastic round and drive to catch the leaders. Tyler Broadus who has developed a very respectable game in recent months fired a nice one under par 71. He would have four birdies on the day and three of those birdies on his inward half to put pressure on the leaders, (Duff, Ortiguera and Mathew Soucinek). Broadus's solid golf would be good enough to tie for the lead with Ortiguera and Duff when it was all said and done. Ortiguera would shoot a 74 while Soucinek would come up one short at 75.

Duff had a commanding lead at the turn but would once again feel the pressure of the closing holes and the stellar play of his playing competitors. Duff would bogey five of his last six holes of play to shoot 77 and end in a tie at 148 with Ortiguera and Broadus. The trio would head to the 10th tee to play for the Championship. Duff, true to his word, would birdie the hole, while Ortiguera and Broadus would miss their birdie putts. Broadus would take the Runner-up position and Ortiguera would finish third.

The Rising Tour Boys 13-15 Smiling jack Landis would be another player to start our birdie-birdie for his opening round. Sam Harrell would match Landis at two under through four, but the birdies would soon wain. At the end of the day Harrell would take home a slim one stroke lead with 78 over Landis. Nolan Zaepfel would have a rough start, but would add three birdies to an even par back nine to also shoot 79 and stay one back.

Harrell would start out round two with four pars and continue his steady play, but seven strokes lost in two holes would make him move in the wrong direction. James Clay Tucker would finally make his move as he parred eight of the front nine holes to turn at 37. Hayden Smith would also turn his game around from the opening round 87 to shot the low round of the day at 75, but it would be one too many as Rowen Parker also made his move and shoot 77 to secure a third place finish. The early move made by Tucker would challenge Landis for the lead, but Landis's birdie at the 14th and par at the finishing hole would secure him a great comeback win. Tucker would be the Runner-up one stroke back.

In the Boys 10-12 Charles "Andy" Lonsdale who has elevated his game would continue his outstanding play by firing a one under par 71 to take a four stroke lead over Andrew Davis and six over Will McGriff and Andrew McLauchlan. Lonsdale with six birdies on the day would be three under after

12 holes of play. A bogey, bogey, double would start a turn of events that could have ended at the 18th with a disappointing finish, but Lonsdale was having nothing to do with that as he birdied the 16th and 17th holes to show his grit and determination.

Round two would be more consist golf by all the players at the top of the leader board, but two would stand out as Carson Brewer would birdie four in a stretch of six holes to post the low round at 74. Will McGriff would also shoot 74 to tie the low round, but a bogey, triple bogey at the final two holes would cost him a share of the lead. McGriff would finish third. Davis at 76 would be enough to hand onto the Runner-up spot. Lonsdale would host the Champions Trophy.

Many thanks and congratulations to all our participants. Keep practicing and playing and we'll see you on the links!

Sincerely,

Jack Aschenbach, PGA
Executive Director
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