

The Dr. Gordon Ira Golf Classic

Hyde Park Golf Club

June 8 and 9



Adapt, adjust and overcome are three characteristics the tournament committee and staff constantly need to practice. This was certainly evident prior to the start of *"The Dr. Gordon Ira Golf Classic"* scheduled to take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 7th and 8th at Hyde Park Golf Club. The push of a westerly headed Pacific storm back east across the Gulf of Mexico made for some interesting and wet weather across the North Florida Area. With the threat of severe storms during play of the opening day of the Tournament Committee was tasked with a major decision. Play, postpone or cancel. It was evident the incoming weather would certainly affect the scheduled event, make for a very wet golf course and endanger our junior players and spectators, so with the concurrence of the Hyde Park Golf Club Head Golf Professional Gary Murfitt the decision to postpone one day was enacted. Playing Thursday and Friday. What a GREAT decision and we'll leave it at that.

Many thanks to PGA Professional Gary Murfitt and his staff of professionals for their outstanding support, they too adapted to the conditions and adjusted their course play to accommodate the junior players of the NFJG TOUR.

Awesome job to the Men of the Hyde Park "Men's Golf Association" who volunteered to cook lunch, shuttle players and support the NFJG TOUR Staff.

Fleming Island's Peyton Billings, along with 54 other NFJG TOUR Players would brave the wet conditions and adapt to the course, which would now play a lot longer than what it would be if the course were in its normal state, dry and fast. Billings competing in the **Boys 16-18 division** would birdie the par-4 second hole along with another at the par-4 thirteenth hole to shoot the lowest round of the day at even par 72.

With greens full, but slow and a little wet the players needed to do some adapting and adjusting of their own and some would need to overcome and forget the high scores recorded on a few of the tough holes. The par-4 third hole would be a douser and would cause issue with many of the players. The blind drive to the saturated landing area would be a guess on distant control and the long up-hill approach with the common downhill lie would require great adjustment.

Also playing in the Boys 16-18 division, Eric Poehlman would birdie five holes on the day. His opening 9-hole score of four over par 40 would be married with a very nice 2-under par 34 to fire a 74 for the day.

Three players including Tyler Broadus, Ryan Williams and Jacob Godwin would be tied at 75. Broadus would EAGLE the par-5 fourteenth hole to become the newest member the NFJG TOUR EAGLE CLUB.

Foundation Boys newcomer Tyler Mawhinney from Fleming Island with caddie Mom on the bag would fire another outstanding round, as he did the week prior at the Orange Park Open. Mawhinney would open his tournament with a bogey at the first, but would adapt to the playing conditions quickly birding the par-4 seventh hole and capturing par at seven holes. Mawhinney's even par round of 36 would be the leader in the house with a four stroke lead over multi-champion Richard Hayden Ruth who shot 40. Brock Miller would be five strokes back at 41. He would birdie the par-4 seventh hole.

Todd Roy from St. Johns, Florida playing in the **Elite Tour Boys 13-15 Division** would be the division leader after round one. Roy nearing the top of the circle of golf (refer to previous newsletter) was adapting well to the playing conditions and would end the day with a score of one over par 73 two strokes ahead of Jacksonville's Alexander Waller. Roy would birdie holes six, eight and nine. Waller shooting a first round score of 72 would also birdie three.

Logan Flores, a top seed **Rising Tour Boys 13-15** Division player would take birdies prisoner on the 10th and 11th holes to take home a seven stroke lead over Connor Holcroft and an eight stroke lead over Alexander Olsen and Maguire Harrison. Flores shot 77.

In the **Girls 13-18 Division** Olivia Whitten, a rising star from Flagler Beach, Florida applied some first round pressure on the field posting a six over par 78. She would take a comfortable four stroke lead over five times a champion Lisa Colee from DeLand, Florida.

Ponte Vedra's Jackson Klauk competing in the Boys 10-12 Division would birdie the 2nd and 17th holes to come in the clubhouse with an outstanding score of two over par 74. He would sport a four stroke lead over Fleming Island's Andrew Davis who shot 78.

ROUND TWO

The second round would start out a little better than round one. For starters, the sun would shine, the course was soaking up the water and drying out the course. The ball was traveling farther and the weather turned out to be what all golfer's desire.

The **Boys 16-18 Division** with 18 players in the field would continue to display some outstanding golf. Three players would shoot under par for a total of thirteen under par and all but one player would improve from their round one score.

Peyton Billings took no prisoners during the second round. He knew the previous year's champion, Harrison Presta was in the field amongst other players who could go low. Last year Presta posted a six under par 66 during his final round to capture the tournament. Last year Presta had six birdies in a row to become the 2016 Overall Champion.

Billings visualizing his name on the perpetual trophy would strike the ball solid and attack the pins all day to ensure his name was next to be placed on the trophy base and become part of Dr. Gordon Ira Golf Classic history of Champions for future NFJG TOUR generations to see.

Billings posted five birdies of his own in the final round to shot a stellar 4-under par 68 to take an eight shot victory over Runner up Ryan Williams. Ryan William, Drew Neilen, Tyler Broadus and John Paul Garrido would find themselves in a battle for the Runner up spot with five other players.

Williams would bogey the par-5 14th, Neilen would EAGLE the hole and five other contenders would birdie the hole for its,"GAME ON" to the finish. Williams with all pars in his closing holes would nip hard charging Drew Neilen, by one to take the Runner-up spot and Neilen would outlast another hard charger in Garrido by one to take the Third Place Trophy.

Harrison Presta would have another solid finish shooting a five under par 67. He would have six birdies and only one bogey on the day. Dylan Larsen would be the other player to fire numbers in the red. He would cage five birdies and post a second round score of 68. Forty-three birdies would posted in round two.

Billings for his outstanding play would take home the ***Boys 16-18 Division Championship, Overall Champion Award, one FJT exemption, two AJGA PBE Stars*** and a ***fully paid exemption into the North Florida PGA Junior Championship*** at Reunion Resort in Orlando, Florida.

In the ***Boys 10-12 Division*** Jackson Klauk would continue his excellent play. He would come out at the start like a man on a mission. Klauk would birdie three holes in his first six holes to put pressure on the field sending the message he was not folding and was fighting to the end. Klauk birdied four holes in all on the day to take home the top trophy and earn the name of Champion.

Playing alongside Klauk was Fleming Island's Andrew Davis. Davis applied some pressure with his three birdies, but it was a little too late. Klauk would shoot an even par round of 72. Davis would fire a one over par 73 to take home the Runner-up Trophy.

In the ***Girls 13-18 Division*** round two would have a change in the standings. Olivia Whitten's four shot lead over Lisa Colee would change from the very first hole as Colee stroked in a birdie putt while Whitten bogeyed the opening hole. Whitten would once again gain the comfortable four stroke lead with pars at her next two holes against Colee's bogeys at each. Colee would then turn up the pressure as she would string 11 perfect holes including two additional birdies. Colee would make the turn now one up over Whitten who would go downhill from there.

Playing steady golf, Palm Coast's Alexandra Gazzoli (80) would make a move toward the top of the leaderboard. A birdie at the par-5 14th hole would be enough to slingshot her past Julia Wallace to take the Runner-up Award

In the ***Elite Tour Boys 13-15 Division*** Todd Roy would open up with a perfect front nine to turn at two under par 34. Roy would birdie the par-3 fourth and par-5 ninth holes to keep his slight lead over hard

charging Alexander Waller. Waller would close his opening nine holes with birdies at the par-3 sixth, par-4 seventh and par-5 ninth to stay in touch with the leader Roy. Making the turn both Roy and Waller would run into some bogey trouble, but more Roy than Waller and after a great birdie at the par4 fifteenth hole by Waller, Roy would just be holding onto a slim one stroke lead. That would also be the story when they approached the tee at the tough and intimidating par-4 18th. Roy would par and Waller would stumble with a double bogey.

Logan Flores playing in the **Rising Tour Boys 13-15** said his first round score of 77 wasn't quite good enough. The Ladd decided he would take it just a little lower during round and that he did posting a solid two over par 74 for his lowest score on the NFJG TOUR circuit. Flores's round included three birdies and an extension to his seven stroke lead to 13 by tournament end. Flores's closest competitor was St. Augustine's Connor Holcroft who shot 80 on the day to capture the Runner Award by four shots over Alexander Olsen.

Brock Miller in the **Foundation Boys** would lead the field during round two. The up and comer shot his lowest round on tour with an even par 36 nipping the tournament leader by three strokes on the day. Five strokes back at the start, the young and dedicated Brock would come up short of the leader, but would post two birdies during his 9-hole round with birdies at the par-5 fifth hole and ninth holes. Brock's outstanding round was good enough to surpass Richard Hayden Ruth for the Runner up Trophy, but not enough to catch the round one leader.

Tyler Mawhinney would have a good day on the course with Dad on the bag for round two. The duo would hang on to capture his second championship in a row.

Many thanks to all our players for participating in this traditional golf tournament and congratulations once again to all our award winners.

Next up is The San Jose Junior Classic followed by the Jacksonville Junior Open.

See you on the links!

Jack Aschenbach, PGA