

# Tour Championship

## Tournament Story

Glen Kernan Country Club

August 1, 2017

It's hard to believe the season has come to an end, but it has. You know the ole saying. Time flies when you're having fun. It's true and it really has been a wonderful year and I can't thank our players, parents, grandparents and friends enough for joining us as we grow the game for all our juniors. The joy of watching all our kids grow and mature is priceless. It really has been a thrill watching the players develop from the beginning to the end of the year.

What's really cool for me and my staff is that we get the distinct privilege and pleasure to watch our juniors grow year after year to become great high school, college and yes TOUR players. It's a dream, and we try to make the dream a reality by giving all our players the opportunity to play golf on many of the finest golf courses in North Florida.

Even though this season has come to an end, the new season isn't far off, so keep practicing and playing. Preparations are underway right now to get the ball rolling again and before you know it, we'll be teeing it up at the "King and Bear Open".

The season ending TOUR Championship didn't end as planned, but we managed to get in one round to complete the event. Even though we only played one day the Tour Championship will count as a two day event on the Scoreboard Rankings and in regards to the exemptions provided us from the Florida Junior Tour and the American Junior Golf Association.

Round one was a heart breaker not to be able to play Marsh Landing Country Club. I know it's one of your favorites, mine too, but four inches of rain is not good for any golf course in the marsh areas. The Pro is looking at getting us out there earlier this year, so stay tuned.

Round two scheduled at Glen Kernan Country went off without a hitch. Speed of play was great and so was the golf. The golf course was a little wet, but otherwise it was in AWESOME condition. The range being one of the lowest areas on the course was pretty wet and unfortunately needed to remain closed, so all 66 players hit the links without striking a full shot.

The **Boys 16-18** Division had 15 players in the field and Green Cove Springs Tyler Broadus, is a prime example of one of those players of whom we have watched grow over the years. Broadus playing some pretty respectable golf ordered up a nice 38-35 to shoot the lowest round of the day along with Jacksonville's Andrew McLauchlan from the Elite Tour Boys 13-15 Division. Both Broadus and McLauchlan would take home the gold medals as a token of their Tour Championship victory and will wait patiently for two weeks to get their TOUR Trophy presented to them at Annual Awards Banquet at

TPC Sawgrass. I like the fact that 150 or so people will be cheering and applauding the season ending win.

Patrick Tucker, this year's runner up in the Boys 16-18 and Drew Neilen the third place finisher would give Broadus all he could handle, but the two players would come up one and two strokes short at 74 and 75. Neilen would knock down four birdies on the day in an up and down battle. His unfortunate double bogey at the 18<sup>th</sup> hole would cost him a share of the lead.

In the **Elite Tour Boys 13-15** Neptune Beach's Andrew McLauchlan would do the same as Broadus as he would outlast Fernandina's James Ballato and Jacksonville's Alexander Waller by one stroke for the championship. Ballato tied with Waller at 74 would take the scorecard playoff with his one stroke advantage on the back nine. Waller would become the owner of the Bronze Award.

Lisa Colee in the **Girls 13-18 Division** admitted she didn't have "A" but was happy to see that her pro-par score of 80 would be enough to claim victory. Marissa Cardenas would become this year's runner up four stroke back and Hannah Stevens happily returned to the winner podium accepting the Bronze Award shooting an 86 on the day.

In the **Rising Tour Boys 13-15 Division** Ty Boston would end his year in fine fashion. The young man from Amelia Island fired an Elite Tour score of 74 in his last Rising Tour event as next season he will be one of many advancing to the upper bracket. Boston would clear the next closest competitor by five strokes. As mention earlier, it's awesome to see our players mature on the course and in life. Just a couple of tournaments ago Boston was playing in the Boys 10-12 Division. Reese Deckard, another Elite Tour contender shot himself a 79 along with Trevor Humphries to tie for the Runner up spot. Deckard would win the scorecard playoff by four shots on the back nine.

Jacksonville's Carson Brewer playing in the **Boys 10-12 Division** had nothing but victory on his mind when he teed it up. Brewer would card a pair of hockey sticks 77 to claim his first victory on the NFJG TOUR. Brewer, despite a triple bogey at the tough to navigate, par-5 11<sup>th</sup> hole played brilliantly and would bring it home three strokes ahead of Runner up Davis Chandler and four strokes ahead of third place finisher Markus Lam.

In the **Foundation Division**, it was more of the same ole stuff, great play from the youngest division. Chase Ricks also chasing his first victory on the NFJG TOUR would put his clubs in full throttle as the hard charger would birdie the opening hole along with the par-5 7<sup>th</sup> hole to capture his first victory on Tour.

Also looking for his first win was Ryan Houck. Houck would come up a few strokes short this time, but would claim the Silver Medal for his first medal of the season after winning a scorecard playoff against two time Champion Emmet Kuhlenkamp who would take the Bronze Award.

In the **Girls Foundation**, Alyzabeth Morgan would shoot a fine 50 while to take the Gold Medal and McKelvey Dietz would shoot her lowest round of the season. Her 55 score would be 11 strokes better than her precious season best of 66. She would bring home the Silver Medal.

See you on the links.

Jack Aschenbach, PGA