

North Florida Junior Golf Foundation

“IN THE SPOTLIGHT”



Danielle Dailey has been playing in the North Florida Junior Foundation league since 2017. Over the course of her 65 NFJG events, her 18-hole scoring average is 80.2 and her average finish is 3rd place. Danielle has 12 wins and 47 top 10's including 19 runner ups.

Her most consistent performance is at The Palatka Golf course, where she won her first Rising Girls 2-day event. She then followed that performance up with a 4th place finish 2 years later in the Elite division. The following year, she set the Tournament scoring record in the Junior Girls Azuela with a 2-day total of 143 which included 10 birdies in 36 holes. More recently, she finished second in the same event this past year.

Danielle has faced some challenges in her golfing experience. Namely, in June of 2021 when she was diagnosed with Patellofemoral. This is a condition that makes your knees hurt a lot.

Danielle took that summer off from playing golf and returned to playing full time in the fall. Jack at NFJG was very helpful in getting Danielle back to playing and allowed her to ride in a golf cart. Without using a cart, she would have been unable to play. The good news is that when

Danielle turned 16, as predicted, her body caught up with her growth spurt and she no longer needed a cart to play golf.

In 1998 the school district of the county of St. John's instituted a program that revolves around Character. The six pillars of Character in this program are: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. When a student becomes a junior in high school, the teachers vote for students who are worthy of receiving the Character Counts Award. On April 23, 2025, there was an award ceremony where Danielle was one of 3 juniors at her school, and one of about 100 students in St. John's County that received the Character counts award.

Danielle has been attending a Catholic school since the age of 3. Her faith is very strong, and her knowledge of the bible is amazing. In middle school, during the summer as her father was encouraging her to go to weeklong summer golf camps, Danielle instead went with Sister Molly to spiritual retreats in Miami.

During this time, Danielle had the idea that her life was built around golf, school, friends, Family, and God in that order. As she matured, Danielle did not know how to express her need to re-prioritize her life. She did not know how to tell her father that golf was not number one for her. With the help of her golf coach, Anne Cain, Danielle made the decision that she would pursue an educational scholarship in place of an Athletic Scholarship.

In the next tournament after Danielle made the decision not to pursue a college golf scholarship, she shot 67.

Danielle's educational achievements are as impressive as her athletic abilities. She takes all advanced courses and currently has all A's in her high school career and is ranked 4th in her class. Danielle has already qualified for a Bright Futures scholarship and hopes to attend a highly rated college within the State of Florida.

Now that Danielle has reprioritized her life, she has decided that God comes first followed by friends, school, family, and golf. Her golf practice time has decreased from 6 days a week to 2 days a week. She is happier and finds more time to live her life.

So, what happened to Danielle's golf career after she matched her core values to her life? Well, perhaps surprisingly, her golf scores went down.

On March 23rd, 2025, Danielle played in an NFJG event at the Fernandina Beach Golf Club. It was a typical front nine for Danielle. She was playing relatively well but had a couple of missed opportunities and managed a score of 39 on the front. Then, something clicked, and the magic started. She got a birdie on 10, followed by an immediate par on 11, and two back-to-back birdies on 12 and 13. Then, on hole 14, Danielle scored an eagle. How did she close out the last four holes? With two birdies and two pars. This incredible performance resulted in a score of seven under 30 on a nine-hole par of 37 and an 18-hole total of 69.

You see, once Danielle's life was in line with her desires, she was no longer having her internal struggle. Instead, she now can live her life knowing that golf is a sport that she can play very well, but golf will never be what defines her. Knowing who you are and what you stand for matters more than golf and having enough wisdom at only 17 years old to understand who you are is truly a gift.

This summer Danielle is attending another spiritual retreat. This time she is going to Medjugorje, Bosnia, a city well known for reported apparitions of the Virgin Mary.

Danielle is very excited to be traveling out of the country without her parents and is looking forward to this tremendous spiritual opportunity. When she gets back, she plans to continue playing golf on the NFJG tour.

God has given Danielle many gifts: Intelligence, tremendous hand eye coordination, a strong Character and connection to the Holy Spirit. While we can never know what tomorrow will bring, we do know that as Danielle becomes an adult, she can rely on these four gifts to become the best version of herself.