

I've Got a Dream Invitational

Tournament Story

Deercreek Country Club and Jacksonville Golf & Country Club

January 20 & 21

It's all about AWESOME!

It was great to be back at one of my old stomping grounds. Deercreek Country Club was my home for more than six years. The club membership is very active, filled with a family of golf character who gel in the clubs vision, ventures and accomplishments and there are many. I was happy to be part of this team. Many of the members of years gone by were on the putting green as our juniors were preparing to hit the links. Through our conversations I was invited back to come speak at a future Men's Golf Association meeting to see how the members could help us grow our foundation and Tour. I thought that was pretty awesome! What else was awesome? The course was awesome, our welcome back to Deercreek was awesome and there was some pretty awesome golf being played on a very difficult, but awesome golf course. The weather was awesome too! Yup, only a mere 30 degrees warmer than the week prior. I'm going to take 76 degrees over 32/46 bone chilling degrees. How about you?

Many thanks to K.W. Godwin, the Head Golf Professional and to Nicola Fulford the General Manager for their outstanding support and allowing us to play the course.

On Sunday 44 players teed it up in hopes of capturing the title of Champion of the "I've Got a Dream Invitational". Again we had a lot of great junior golf going on in the North Florida area. Many of our outstanding members competed in the Jacksonville Amateur and many headed west for Tallahassee to play in the Florida Junior Tour (FJT) event at Don Veller Seminole Golf and Country Club. Congratulations to all the players and specifically past NFJG TOUR Player Brandon Mancheno who took the title at Amelia National and to Izzy Pellot our NFJG TOUR Member from Orlando who won the FJT event in the Girls 13-18 Division.

With a low registration for the I've Got a Dream Invitational and having the fear that we may lose this event next year an additional one day tournament event was created to produce a bigger draw allowing those who could not play both days the opportunity to play in at least a one day. At Deercreek Country Club with the course being open there really were no worries, but our second round being played at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club was the concern as the club would normally be closed on this Monday and would open specifically for our use. All-in-all things turned out good and 57 players played in the one-day. Many thanks to Head Golf Professional Ray Barr and his staff plus the membership at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club for supporting the North Florida Junior Golf Foundation and TOUR. That's simply AWESOME stuff!

I can honestly say it makes me PROUD to witness the fine play by all our players; to witness our youngest grow to compete in Florida Junior Tour events, AJGA Tour events and other local junior and adult events, like the Jacksonville Amateur just played. What makes me the proudest though is to view some of the outstanding displays of sportsmanship and the respect given to and of fellow competitor's. It's **AWESOME** that the game we grow is honored and guarded by the words "**Honesty, Integrity and Courtesy**". It's the only game where you call your own foul and abide by a 6-inch rule book created hundreds of years ago. **Violate the trio of words and you will find yourself in a league by yourself.**

This week we feature the Boys 10-12 Division as these young lads are stripping the ball from tee to green and the competition is fierce. If you want to win in this division you have to bring your "A-game".

Reminding me of the movie Bagger Vance, Savannah, Georgia's own Reed Lotter was getting the job done again this week while battling the charging J'ville (Eagleman) Chase Carroll and Fleming Islands Andrew Davis. During round one the trio played some awesome golf that made for some exciting golf if you were on the sidelines watching. Andrew Davis would have four birdies on the day in round one, but a double bogey and the short par-4 7th hole and the difficult par-4 9th hole would keep Chase Carroll and Reed Lotter excited and one and two strokes ahead respectively.

Carroll would open his front nine with a perfect card and a one under par 34, but late in the round would bogey the 14th, 16th and 18th holes to keep Lotter and Davis close on his heels. Carroll would take home the lead, but Jacksonville Golf and Country Club was next on the list as it is a challenge for the best of players.

In round two action, Carroll would step up to the plate raring and ready to go after a good night's rest and by the turn he would add one stroke to his overnight lead. With a birdie at the 10th hole he would add another to increase the lead, but with four bogies between the 11th and 15th holes he would now find himself even and in a battle with the co-leader Lotter.

Davis would continue to play well, but was unable to mount a move.

A birdie at the tough par-5 16th hole vaulted Carroll to the lead once again, but a bounce back birdie by Lotter on the par-3 17th hole would square the match. Co-leaders going into the final hole and a Par-par result would be the call and the tie would mean a sudden death play-off.

Headed to the first tee both players would continue their awesome play and a tie at the first hole of sudden death would lead to a closest to the pin shootout from the 150 yard marker. Carroll up first would knock it long through the green and a pulled shot by Lotter would go pin high left ending up on the fringe. Back to the 150 yard marker they both would go where this time Lotter would knock it to 20 feet from the pin for the win and claim the title as Champion.

Once all scores were officially posted Lotter would also be declared the tournaments overall winner with his total score of 149. Carroll would settle for the Runner-up award. Lotter would also take top honors for the JGCC 1-Day event with a score of 75, Carroll (76) the Silver and Davis (81) the Bronze.

Our Boys 16-18 would find Taylor Dickmann (77) playing the Creek well and taking the overnight lead by two strokes over Patrick Hamlin (79) and Joh Paul Garrido (79). An early morning start at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club would lead to a rough set of opening holes for the overnight leader. Dickmann

would head to the fifth tee five over par and now tied for the lead with Hamlin. The two players would match pars until the turn where both would match double bogeys at the tight par-4 10th and a follow up bogey/double bogey by Dickmann and Hamlin would bring Garrido back to the top of the leaderboard and in the thick of things, but it was not long lived as Garrido would triple the par-4 13th hole. Hamlin (157) would be the first to settle the nerves carding five pars and a birdie on his way in to capture the crown by one stroke over Dickmann (158) who was presented the Runner up award. Hamlin would also capture the one day event receiving the Gold Medal. Jay Adams (80) received the Silver and Taylor Dickmann (81) the Bronze.

The Girls 13-18 Division would find a champion for the second time this season. Rene Jancsik posted a final round of 78 for her lowest round of the 2016-2017 season to capture the title.

Marissa Cardenas would be the round one leader with a fine opening round of 78 on the tough Deercreek Country Club course. Eleven pars and a birdie would give her a commanding seven stroke lead over Valentina Rodriguez (85) and Alexandra Gazzoli (85).

In round two and equal in difficulty Jacksonville Golf and Country Club would steer the overnight leader in the wrong direction. A quadruple bogey at the 5th hole and four consecutive double bogeys would end any hopes of maintaining the lead or of mounting a comeback to retain the lead.

Reni Jancsik made an early move applying pressure from the start with a birdie at the first hole of the day and an opening nine holes of three over par 39, nine strokes ahead of the Cardenas. Gazzoli would also make up five strokes on Cardenas. Six consecutive pars would keep Cardenas in touch with Jancsik, but Jancsik would counter with five pars and a birdie on her inward nine to nip Gazzoli by three for the Championship. Jancsik would also win Gold in the JGCC 1-Day. Gazzoli the Silver and Kayleigh Baker (85) would take the Bronze.

The Boys 13-15 Division would be the largest of the event with 20 in the field, 15 in the Rising Tour and five in the Elite. Just enough players to submit for AJGA PBE Star consideration.

On the **Elite side**, Todd Roy and Ober Theam were hitting on all cylinders with three birdies apiece to fire a pair of awesome 75's to take the lead after round one. Alexander Waller would have three birdies himself, but three difficult holes would leave him with a final score of 79 and four strokes back.

Derek Sanderson would scramble for 13 holes, but on the toughest stretch of holes on the course (the final five) he would find the rhythm and would finish his day at 80, five strokes back.

Whatever Sanderson found on the 14th hole the day before carried over to the final round at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club. A birdie at the first hole of play led to a one under par 35 opening nine holes to close the gap the leaders had made the day prior. Theam would struggle, unable to recover and the battle to the top would now be between Sanderson and Roy. A birdie by Sanderson at the par-3 17th hole and a double bogey by Roy at the last would prove to be the determining factor. On this day, Sanderson would fire the 75 and Roy the 81. Sanderson would edge out Roy by a single stroke to capture his fourth win of the season. Sanderson would also take the JGCC 1-Day Gold. Roy would proudly accept the Runner-up spot. Carter Lewis with his fine 79 would take the Silver Medal and Roy the Bronze in the 1-Day.

In the ***Rising Tour Boys***, round one would find Alexander Whitmore in the lead with a fine round of 78 and right behind him would be playing partner Christopher Ostrow with 79. Three back would be three time champion Andrew Riley with 81.

Round two at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club would find Charles Lonsdale coming into form as he works through the rust in his game. Playing in his first event of the season Lonsdale would shed nine strokes off his uncharacteristic opening round of 86 with a 1-Day leading score of 77.

Andrew Riley would open his round with a birdie at the second hole applying direct pressure to the leaders, but a trouble sum back nine would keep Riley from making the move. Whitmore also having a troubled back nine would hang on to the lead and claim victory by two over Riley.

Lonsdale would finish strong and would end up in a tie at 163 with Logan Flores for the Runner-up award. A score-card play-off made Lonsdale the winner. Lonsdale with his outstanding 77 would finish first in the JGCC 1-Day. Flores carding a nice 79 on the day would take home the Silver Medal and Andrew Riley (81) the Bronze.

In the ***Foundation Boys Division*** Mathew French, after starting his opening hole with a double bogey would follow up with six pars and a birdie to shoot an awesome score of 38 and would take home a six stroke lead after the opening round.

Round two at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club would be more of the same as French started his round with a birdie at the par 4, 11th hole, but from there out the course would win, as all the Foundation Boys seem to have a difficulty on the tough closing back nine holes. All three leaders would shoot 46 on their final nine holes of play. French would total 84, six strokes ahead of Richard Hayden Ruth (90) to raise the BIG trophy. Ruth would earn the Runner-up spot. French would also win the 1-day event and receive the Gold Medal. Ruth would claim Silver and Clark the Bronze. .