

University of Florida Invitational

Mark Bostick Golf Club

Tournament Story

If you made the drive to Gainesville to play in the University of Florida Invitational you found out what a great golf course the Mark Bostick Golf Club is. The course was in stunning shape and once again a true joy to be able to play. Fifty-three Junior TOUR Players teed it up on this great Donald Ross golf course. From start to finish, the views were spectacular and the golf course giving our players their every wish in making great shots. The players figured out quickly, you either stayed focused on the matter at hand or you ended up with higher scores than you originally intended. Rolling fairways, elevation changes and undulating greens made the experience that much more challenging and our players handled it well.

Once again we dodged the rain. The forecast called for better than 70% chance of rain, but we were blessed once again as the storms coming off of the coast passed us by. I'm so thankful that they did, otherwise we would not have witnessed our NFJG TOUR Superstars and future superstars in action. What a great day and there was some pretty awesome golf being played on the Mark Bostick Golf Course to boot!

Three players shot under par on their opening nine, which included Jake Davis with a little -2 under, Parker Miller 1-under, and Olivia Whitten -2 under and on the back nine, Andrew Porter sported a nice -2 under.

In our Boys 16-18 Andrew Porter started with a so-so opening nine, but on the back nine, bringing it home he caught fire with birdies on holes 11, 12, 17 and 18 to bring it home at -2 under with a nice 33 on the tougher of the two sides. Keep in mind the front nine is no piece of cake either, for a total 73 to capture the Gold.

Hayden Paull playing in his second consecutive event would finish in the runner up spot carding a pleasing 76, while Samuel Lister and Harrison Presta would both tie at 77. Lister would nip Presta by one in the card play-off to secure the third spot. Brian Nichol and Ryan Ulmer didn't make the winners circle this week, but declared victory as they were happy to test the course that will soon be their home course for the next four years. Both boys start their college career next fall and for sure they will both be missed on the NFJG TOUR!

Our Girls Division continued their push to create the strongest fields possible. This week 13 of our ladies took the ROAD trip and our top three girls had a total of nine birdies and average 3 over par for the day. Now that's some pretty nice golf. First time player Karoline Tuttle would have four birdies on the day to shoot a two over par 72 tying with Izzy Pellot. Pellot would card two birdies of her own with 12 pars and four bogeys.

Olivia Whitten would be the story of the front nine. Whitten posted three birdies on the opening nine at holes 3, 5, 8, but her back nine would soon unravel starting at the 12th with bogey, followed up with a

double at the tough 13th. Whitten ended the day with a very respectable round of 76 and a third place finish while Tuttle and Pellot would head to the first tee for a sudden death play-off. Tuttle would capture the title with Pellot receiving the Silver Medal.

Our Elite Tour Boys resulted in Rj Glod taking the “Birdie Leader” Award with four birdies on the day, but unfortunately for him, he also led the field in double bogeys made. If you play the Mark Bostick and you’re aggressive like Glod is you’re going to make a bunch of birdies, but you’re also going to make a bunch of high numbers.

Elliott Wright, it seems may have listened to a bit of advice given in an earlier newsletter. *“Hit it to the center of the green to bring down you score”*. Trust me it works and pin seeking normally leads to tough times, especially when you short side yourself on a Donald Ross designed course. Wright would be the most consistent player of the day with 15 pars, one birdie, a bogey and one double to cap off a two over par 72 to capture the Gold.

Parker Miller and Jake Davis both would turn in perfect scorecards for the front nine, Davis would make the turn at two under while Miller would birdie the 8th and turn at one under. Both would experience the toughness and wrath of the final nine. I think Donald Ross defended his final nine pretty good!

The Rising Tour Boys played pretty solid on the day. Dylan Larsen took a four shot led into the final nine, but a strong finish by Sam Harrell with five pars on the back would result in a tie of the lead. While Dylan would bogey, Harrell would par. On the 18th hole Harrell would need a 10 footer to take the contest to sudden death and that he did with an El’draino and a fist pump to celebrate his fine play and strong finish. But it wasn’t just one fist pump it was like eight straight pumps by a fired up Harrell captured by most all that were around the 18th hole and practice area. Tyler Broadus would take home the Bronze and Larsen would beat Harrell in the first hole of sudden death to win the Gold.

The Boys 10-12 was another heated contest as all the players in the field **were in it to win it** when they made the turn. Will McGriff fired off 7 straight perfect holes with a birdie at the par-3 eight to shoot a one over par 36 at the turn, but would double bogey the difficult 10th, but his four stroke lead over Brody Stevenson and Daniel Mazur was enough to keep him in the lead and the owner of a brand new Gold Medal. Mazur charging hard on the back nine would bring in six pars against three bogeys to close the gap, but would fall one short to take home the Silver. The steady Danny Erickson and Brody Stevenson would tie for the third spot and Erickson would win the scorecard play-off by three.

Our Foundation Boys only had two players for this ROAD trip, but Phillip Dunham was able to show his versatility as he and newcomer Taylor Galavis took on the challenges of the front side. Galavis playing with the Foundation’s best player would watch what he soon will be doing with practice and dedication to the game. Dunham would shot a four over 39 to take the Gold for his ninth win of the season. Galavis would be knighted with Silver in his first NFJG TOUR event.

Our Foundation Girls had three in the field and coming back to take control of the contest was Kaitlyn Schroeder. Schroeder, who has been working hard on her game shot an impressive five over par to stop Tylar Ann Whiting’s win streak at five. Whiting would take home the Silver slightly edging out Alyzabeth Morgan by one stroke who grabbed the Bronze.

Awesome stuff NFJG TOUR Players! Keep practicing, keep playing and we’ll see you on the links!