

The Lake City Open

The Country Club of Lake City

Tournament Story

Our Third ROAD trip of the season ended up in another huge success story. For one, I didn't get lost (or misdirected by my GPS), but I did hear about an individual who follow his GPS that took him to the same locked gate I ended up last year. No names, but we had a good laugh!

Only 42 players took the trip to Lake City, but its 15 more players than last year. Next year I do expect 60 or more. It already in the books, so put this one on your schedule when the new season schedule comes out.

The Country Club of Lake City is simply a beautiful layout and the best around the area. Everywhere you went the members greeted you with open arms, a friendly hello, a warm hand shake and they were very impressed with the players, conduct, play and scores.

With 20 members in the dining room an announcement was made by one of the members as he walked through the door that a 12 year old had just made the turn with a one under par 35. That comment started a whole bunch of WOW's, chatter and laughter of how they needed strokes if playing against this young man, who we later found out was Andrew Davis. For me to hear that was a great moment and it tells you the character of the Lake City Membership.

General Manager and Owner Carl Ste-Marie, one of our great Northern Chapter PGA Members came in on his day off to say hello and to insure things where in order and left us in good hands with his staff. Mom, Mrs. Ste-Marie was our hostess for the day and served us some great Lake City vitals. Just a great experience, so put it in the books for next year. You won't be disappointed.

The Country Club of Lake City is a tough track. The course is laid out with shot making in mind. You need to work the ball both ways, properly judge landing areas and elevation changes and then you need to put a great stroke on the ball.

In our Elite TOUR Boys 13-15 Division Patrick Tucker and Brandon Bulla paired in the first group would battle it out for 18 holes. On the par-5 second hole both players hit excellent drives off the tee and both taking the challenge "went for it" in two. Sitting behind the green I witness two great shots as Bulla's ball, hit with authority bounced in front of the green narrowly missing the pin and rolling past some 25 feet. Tucker would do the same, but got a kick to the left ending up in the left fringe. Both would make great EAGLE attempts, but both players would settle for a birdie. However, those would be the only birdies on the tough front side.

Timothy Cook threw his name in the hat with a birdie on #4 and #9 to take the lead at 37. Tucker would turn with 38 and Bulla at 39. Eric Poehlman and Carter Lewis would be in the mix with 40 and 41.

On the back nine, Tucker would prove to be the “Man” as he carded a flawless back nine with a lone birdie at the 16th to shoot a one under par 35 for a one over par 73 on the day and top the leader board four strokes ahead of Runner-up Cook. Bulla would find some difficulties on the inward half, but would hang on to take home the Bronze medal.

In our Boys 16-18 Division Jacob Whann found himself in the lead after nine holes of play as he turned with a two stroke lead over Troy Sheffield, William Levinson and Conner Dzion.

One group ahead of the Whann, Levinson would take a stab at the lead with a birdie at the tenth to get his momentum headed to the top of the leaderboard and a par at the 11th to Whann’s bogey would do just that, but an uncharacteristic triple bogey at the 12th would stop the momentum dead in its tracks. What matters after an unfortunate hole is how fast you bounce back and recover. Levinson did not bat an eye and continued his outstanding play with three pars and a birdie at the 16th to once again challenge for the lead. Whann would double bogey the 16th and Troy Sheffield was hanging in there with par golf. The Tournament was anyone’s for the taking, but it would be a par-par finish by Whann that would nip Sheffield and Levinson by one. Sheffield and Levinson would tie at 78 and Sheffield would win the card play-off to take home the Silver, Levinson, the steadier of the players on this day would capture the Bronze.

In our Girls Division the battle for the title would begin with Emily McLatchey and Elizabeth Fuentes. With solid ball striking McLatchey would shoot 39 and make the turn three strokes ahead of Fuentes with a 42.

Marissa Cardenas and Camille Jackson would be next in line with 45’s apiece. At the turn Camille Jackson would be the first player to make a move towards the leaders with a birdie at the 12th, but Sarah Edwards would be the one with the biggest push. Now seven strokes back Edwards would birdie the 13th and the 16th stringing pars left and right to top off an excellent vi for the championship. Edwards came in at one over par 37 on the back side for a nine stroke turn-around.

Jackson would better her front side score by four strokes. McLatchey needing to finish strong to hang on to the Gold would do so with a 42 on the back for a total 81, just two strokes ahead of the hard charging Edwards, who was proud to take home the Runner-up Silver Medal for her outstanding comeback. Jackson would clinch her first NFJG TOUR Medal, the Bronze.

The 13-15 Rising Tour Boys – Tyler Broadus is quickly improving his game. Broadus won his third event of the year here at Lake City and his second in the last four events. Broadus opened his round with a nice 39 on front side to take a two stroke lead over two time champion Dylan Larsen and would increase that lead to five strokes over Larsen by tournament end. Charlie Kurtz would start out par-par, but would quickly fall victim to four triple bogeys in a row, only to turn it around to put together six pars in his last 7 holes of play to shoot the low back nine score at five over par 41. Eddie Erickson started out with a double bogey and just couldn’t get off the bogey train, but it was enough to secure him a piece of the pie taking home the Bronze with a finishing score of 89, one stroke ahead of Hayden Zitzewitz.

The Boys 10-12 Division had all seven players in the field when making the turn. Andrew Davis would fire a nice one under par 35 to take a one stroke lead over Daniel Mazur. Danny Erickson and Nolan Harper would fire 39’s and Lucas Slayden and Brody Stevenson would turn with the big 40. On the back side only one player would improve the score over the front and that would Christopher Terzian. Terzian

birdied the 15th and the 17th hole to recover with a nice 40 on the incoming half. Davis would birdie the 2nd and 4th holes and sting 6 pars. Mazur would bogey the first then string seven pars and a birdie at the 9th. Taking the lead into the final hole Davis need but a par to secure victory, but a bogey and a birdie by Mazur would put the two in tie for the lead at two over par 74. Davis would win a sudden death play-off on the third hole of play. Lucas Slayen would shoot another 40-40 round, one stroke ahead of Danny Erickson and Nolan Harper to finish at 80 and take home the Bronze.

In our Foundation Boys Phillip Dunham would do it again to take home more gold with a five stroke lead over Silver Medalist Enrique Trabal. Jack Cook would bow his head to receive the Bronze.

In the Foundation Girls Alyzabeth Morgan would show her ball control as she put together seven bogeys on a very difficult front side for our up and coming group. Morgan claimed her victory by three strokes over newcomer Candace Jackson who took home her first NFJG TOUR Silver Medal. Six time champion Tylar Ann Whiting would take the Bronze.

