

The Quest at St. John's

St. John's Golf and Country Club
June 13, 2016

It was great to return to the St. John's Golf and Country Club this past Monday. The NFJG TOUR had not been there in years. Seventy-one players registered to tee it up in the early afternoon for the double tee start as the summer temperatures reached critical degrees. With the air temperature 96 and the humidex as high as 105+ the players would hit the links. Lucky for us storms outside a ten-mile window circled the course keeping it somewhat cloudy and in tolerable conditions. The golf course was in great shape, as it always is recovering nicely from aerification more than three weeks earlier. If we took a survey, there would be no doubt that this would be another one of the player's favorite courses. Good news, negotiations are already underway to get the course on the schedule for next year. Along with the heat of the day, so was the golf, given the conditions.

In the Boys 16-18 Division, another record would be set as the largest field of the year and for that matter, for years would take on the challenges of St. John's. Nineteen players registered for the event and 18 completed their rounds. Patrick Hamlin would be the one to light things up with four birdies on the front side against just one bogey to open his nine with a three under 33. Two back would be Andrew Szuba who would shoot a nice one under 35. Blake Parker would shoot even par and Ryan Ulmer would record a one over 37. Making the turn the outstanding play would continue by all the leaders, but Rjay Gross would step up his game as he shot a one under 35 to make a move to the top of the leaderboard. Connor Dzion would break even at 36 and Austin Morton would add to his opening round of 42 with a 37 to right the ship. Hamlin would shoot 39 on this incoming nine to settle for an even par round of 72 to take home the Gold Medal, three strokes ahead of Gross and Ulmer who tied for the Runner-up position. Gross would win the scorecard play-off and Ulmer would capture the Bronze. This would be Hamlin's first win of the season and season low round. Hamlin also has two Runner-up Awards. Great job guys! What do you say we get 30 in the field before the season ends?

Our Girls 13-15 Division had a Baker dozen in the field and all would take on the challenges of the day, but on this day, there would be a battle with two players. Playing together and experiencing an awesome back and forth battle would be Karoline Tuttle and Sarah Edwards. Tuttle who joined the NFJG TOUR just two days prior would bogey the first hole and birdie the seventh to turn at even par. Edwards would birdie the second and the eighth holes, but would double bogey the ninth to fall too even, tied with Tuttle. Edwards would birdie the 10th while Tuttle would bogey to take the lead for a short time as bogeys at the 11th and 13th against pars from Tuttle would result in surrendering the lead. On the par-4 14th hole, Tuttle would jar the second shot for an EAGLE to take a two shot lead, but would double the 16th hole to give it right back. Edwards would prove that she was a finisher and would string five straight pars to bring the contest to a tie when it was all said and done. Now tied at 73 each the duo would head to the #1 tee to settle the tie. Both players were grinding as neither wanted to give in. After the first hole, they would once again be tie. With storms in the area, the girls would go to the 150-yard marker. Edwards with the honors would miss the green pin high left and Tuttle would hit it to 20 feet, two putt and win the play-off hole to capture the Gold Medal in her TOUR debut. Edwards would take the Silver

Medal and Marissa Cardenas shooting 39-39=78 would take the Bronze after outscoring Elizabeth Kondal, Tori Mouton in a scorecard play-off

In our Elite Tour Boys 13-15 Carter Lewis would bring his "A" game to St. John's. Carter would beat the elite group of players by five strokes firing a one over par 37 on the front side followed by a one under par 35 on the back nine for an even par round of 72 to earn his first Gold Medal in 13 events. Jarod Fasig and Nick Lesesne would both capture 77's to tie for the Runner-up spot. In the scorecard play-off, Fasig's even par 36 and EAGLE at the 12th hole on the back nine would be the deciding factor in determining Silver and Bronze. Lesesne would take home the Bronze Medal.

The Rising Tour Boys 13-15 Division would start their day on hole #10. Six players would make the turn 1-3 over par on the tough backside including James Clay Tucker and Daniel Murphy at one over par 37. Rowen Parker would be next at three over. Making the turn to the front side seven players would bring home scores in the 30's. Hayden Smith who shot 39 on his opening round would fire a very nice one under par 35 to tie Tucker who would again fire another 37 for a score of 74. Tucker and Smith would go to the first tee to settle the tie and Tucker would earn the right to be named Champion. Smith would take the Silver and Rowen Parker would nip Daniel Murphy by one to display the Bronze Medal.

The Boys 10-12 Division found eight players out of the 10-player field in the thick of things. Danny Erickson would once again lead the way turning with a one over par 37, while Andrew McLauchian and first time 10-12 player Phillip Dunham would turn with a three over 39. On the final nine Nolan John would shoot one over par 37 to catch Erickson who would shoot 40. Both players would end the round shooting 77 to tie for the lead. Lucas Slayden and Carson Brewer would also make a move on the final nine shooting 37's, but would come up short in the end. Dunham would end his day at 79. John and Erickson would head to the first tee for a sudden death play-off. John would claim home field advantage to take the Gold defeating Erickson on the first play-off hole. Erickson would proudly wear the Silver while McLauchlan would secure the Bronze defeating Slayden in a scorecard play-off.

Only the Girls would comprise the Foundation TOUR and once again Tylar Ann Whiting would take top honors outscoring Alyzabeth Morgan by six strokes and Erica Lloyd by eight strokes. Whiting would post six pars on the day and take home her 11th gold medal of the season. Morgan would take the Silver and Lloyd would earn her first NFJG TOUR medal. She would be awarded the Bronze.

