



The NFJG TOUR Challenge

Presented by



Tournament Story

The Golf Club at South Hampton

April 2, 2017

WOW!! What a great field of players we had this past weekend in the “**NFJG TOUR Challenge**”. Ninety-four Junior TOUR Players in all teed it up at **The Golf Club at South Hampton** in hopes of scoring the lowest round of the event. The winner with the lowest round sure to head to the **Atlantic Beach Country Club** on Sunday, April 30th to play in the “**Legacy Junior Invitational**” sponsored by **Public Trust Law Offices**.

With only two events left in the “Spring Tournament Series” the battles for the Series Winner is heating up almost all divisions have a heated race. Next up is the University of Florida Invitational. Fifty players are already signed up for this great event. Then It’s the “Titleist Invitational” which also already has 43 player registered. This was the #1 Web.com Junior Player TOUR event in 2016. I will be pleased to present the first **Tom Stecker Award** to the overall 36 hole winner.

Many thanks to our event sponsor **Adam Oerther of B & C Financial**. *B & C Financial* manages the NFJG Foundation Scholarship Fund and their entire staff are huge supporters of the NFJG Foundation and TOUR. Give Adam a call anytime to help you with your financial needs. The office is located just south of Butler Blvd on A1A in Ponte Vedra Beach.

HackersRx was also a sponsor for this event. The alignment tool is a great way to teach yourself basic alignment, stance and ball position for your full swing, chipping and putting. When the swing goes bad, it’s mainly because of lack of discipline in your basic fundamentals. Go to the website at www.HackersRx to purchase yours and get a 10% discount when you put in the PROMO CODE: NFJG



Twelve year old Brody Stevenson playing amongst a very strong field of 10-12 year olds would capture his first GOLD Medal of the 2016-2017 season with a very impressive even par round of 72. Stevenson playing alongside Ponte Vedra's residents Jackson Klauk and Zack Philip would slam home three birdies on the day to take home a four stroke victory over Runner-up Danny Erickson (76) and Nolan Harper (77), who finished tied for the third spot with Klauk and would win the Bronze Medal in a scorecard play-off.

Carson Brewer would have the first loud roar of the day when he joined the **EAGLE CLUB** on the second hole of play. On the Par-4 346 yard hole Brewer stroked two of the purest shots imaginable finding the bottom of the cup in two. Brewer now Joins a List of 22 Eagle Award Winners.

Also joining the **Eagle Award Club** was Alexander Whitmore, who bombed a drive over the water on the par-5 17th hole. Admittedly he chunked (hit heavy, or fat) his second shot but still caught the front of the green in two. His 30-40 foot putt for EAGLE would be rammed home to secure the 23rd name added to the list NFJG TOUR Eagle Award Winners.

In our **Boys 16-18 Division** – The field would be the strongest of the year with 15 strong and hungry competitors. It must be close to the **"Titleist Invitational"**, **"Orange Park Open"** and the **"Dr. Gordon Ira Classic"** as the fields are improving weekly.

Charles Collings, Elliott Wright, Colin Sirbaugh, Tyler Broadus, Eric Poehlman and Chase Macey all made their return to the NFJG TOUR. Some with a little rust and some showing off their came. Charles Collings and Logan Neel opened their rounds with a perfect nine holes of play, each at one under par, but would trail Elliott Wright by a stroke as the Ponte Vedra resident would capture three birdies on his front nine against one lone bogey to turn at two under par. However, on the back nine birdies would turn into three double bogeys on the 10th, 12th and 14th holes to deflate a beautiful round. We all know it's a funny game at times. Accept it and move on.

The back nine would be the tougher side for almost all in the field except for Ryan Poblacion, who would post a perfect back nine with a score of one under on the side. His front nine would be his hiccup.

Twenty-four birdies were carded by this group of players, but on this day consistency would be the winner. Mr. steady Charles Collings would be that guy on this day as he posted a nice one over par 73 to take the **CHALLENGE** title by one stroke over Logan Neel. Neel would have an eagle putt on the ninth hole, but would three putt for par. This would be the turning point as you could tell as he walked by the registration table headed to #10 that it was bothering him severely. The troubled hole would cost him four bogeys in his next five holes. Lesson learned, don't look back and forget quickly.

Jay Adams and Connor Dzion would play equally as well. For Adams who posted three birdies of his own. Adams would double bogey the short par-4 16th hole that would cost him a tie for the lead. He and Connor Dzion would tie at 75 and Adams would win the play-off with a 37 on the back nine.

Our **Girls 13-18 Division** would have another nice field with 17 players in the lineup. Lisa Colee from DeLand, Florida would once again dominate the field to capture her fourth win in the last five events, although this week two 11 year olds would give her a challenge for the lead.

As a matter of fact Deerwood Country Club's Kaitlyn Schroeder would tie for the lead after the first nine holes of play with a one over par 37. Colee and Schroeder would go head to head and after 12 holes of play Schroeder would find herself in sole possession of the lead, but a triple bogey at the par-5 13th hole would end up to be a very expensive hole. Her rebound would be quick, as Schroeder parred four of her finishing holes, but two birdies by the strong finishing Colee would leave Schroeder one back and in the Silver Medal position. Alexandra Gozzoli would play some steady golf, turning in her second best round of the season at 80 to bring home the Bronze Metal.

The **Elite Tour Boys 13-15 Division** is finally gaining momentum. Nine very strong players went to battle. Carter Lewis was the man early with birdies at the 2nd and 3rd holes. He turned at even par, but four bogeys and a triple on the back nine capsized the ship.

Logan Jerrells would register as the newest member on the TOUR and what does he do? He comes out in fine fashion to earn a victory in his first event of the year. Lucas Slayden (77), whom we all know as a very solid player on TOUR continued his steady play. Two birdies on the day tied him for the lead with Jerrells (77) and a sudden death play-off was called for off the #1 tee. Jerrells would win the hole with a par to take the Gold Medal. Slayden would wear the Silver Medal and Alexander Waller with three birdies on the day would take the Bronze Medal edging out Carter Lewis by one stroke.

The **Rising Tour Boys 13-15 Division** also had the largest contest with 20 players in the field. James Clay Tucker did it again, winning for the third time in just four events. Tucker fired a three over par 75 and captured three birdies in his quest to be champion. **Congratulations Mr. Tucker – You are now an ELITE TOUR Player!**

Jack Barned took sole possession of second spot earning the Silver Medal for his first award of the year. Barned tied for second or third in his last three events to be bumped out of the medal round via scorecard play-offs. This week Barned would play solid golf nipping Alexander Whitmore by one stroke for the Runner up spot. Whitmore would birdie three holes on his round and would add an eagle at the par-5 17th hole to cap off a solid score of 80. Whitmore would win a scorecard play-off against Campbell Kennedy to take home the Bronze.

The **Foundation Boys** would bring it again this week with fourteen players. Emmet Kuhlenkamp would display mastery on the course as he led the quickly advancing field by shooting a three over par 39 for this first Gold Medal on the NFJG TOUR and his lowest round ever. Three shots back would be five time Champion Matthew French who unfortunately triple bogeyed his final hole. Earning the Bronze medal would be Grant McKinney who carded a nice 44 on the day to tie with Chase Ricks. Both players were looking for their first medal on tour. Ricks, one under par after four holes would find the finishing holes unbearable as he would post three double bogeys and one triple bogey after his magnificent opening four holes. Ricks would tie McKinney at 44 all, but would be defeated in the scorecard play-off.

Our **Foundation Girls** would have three players competing. Alyzabeth Morgan would once again claim victory shooting a fine score of 44. This would be Morgan's win and seventh in a row. Finishing in second

place would be Molly Davis outshining McKelvey Dietz by two strokes. Dietz would take home the Bronze to go with her one Silver Medal on the season.

Many thanks to the Professional Staff at The Golf Club at South Hampton. The day was long and the tee times later than normal, but there was no doubt all had fun and the customer service was outstanding. The last group of the day finished under the lights provided by the car of Susan Waite as the final group putted out on the green. The golf course was in spectacular condition and the greens were fast and pure.

Many thanks to all who participated and we'll

See you on the links!

Sincerely,

Jack Aschenbach, PGA

Executive Director

North Florida Junior Golf Foundation

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