



The Orange Park Open

The Golf Club at Fleming Island

May 27-28, 2017

I hope everyone had a great **Memorial Day** weekend.

The TOUR hit the links during this special holiday weekend in honor of those who have gone before us and who have bestowed upon us this great privilege, honor and FREEDOM to play a game loved by so many. The game, founded in Scotland has been played since 1457 and I'm sure it doesn't take much to realize, that's a long time. The world has endured many battles, wars, and conflicts protecting people, interests, and freedoms. A great deal of blood has been shed and many lives lost, so during this event we say THANK YOU to the many for your service and devotion to our country.

With an early morning start we couldn't have asked for better weather. It was cool and comfortable early on, but the lack of a cool breeze and a bright sunny day allowed for the heat to settle in and take a toll on some. This was the first event of the year in the 90's, so bring it on Mr. Summer! Remember, hydrate well before you get to the golf course and constantly during play. You'll definitely have more energy at the end of your round. Don't forget the sunscreen too!

The course at The Golf Club at Fleming Island was in great condition and a true joy to play. Just ask 59 of the NFJG TOUR's finest players. I think they'll agree.

As many know, this golf course requires constant attention because of its narrow fairways and demanding tee shots. During round one the pins were a little on the tougher side, holes placed in some challenging locations which ended up costing some good players some BIG numbers due to their aggressiveness, but that is golf and why we love the game so much. Its challenges we seek in golf, just like in life. Without them things just get a little boring. Don't you agree?

Andrew Riley from the **Rising Tour Boys 13-15 Division** carded the lowest round of the day with a fantastic 1-under par 70. Riley had five birdies on the day to lead the group after round one. Sam Davis would be next in line from the same division firing an even par round of 71. His day would start out with an unfamiliar double bogey, but with a lot of golf left in his round there was no quit in this kid. Davis's cool head and come back attitude allowed him to turn at 40 for this opening nine holes. Five birdies on the back nine and a NFJG TOUR season 9-hole low score of 4-under "31" would create a smile ear-to-ear and a congratulations by his fellow competitors.

Jay Adams from Fernandina playing in the **Boys 16-18 Division** would post the next lowest round with a 1-over par 72 to take a 2-stroke lead over Jacksonville's Ryan Williams (74). Adams would have three birdies on his 1-under par back nine. Williams would have four birdies, two on each side. Logan Conway would be five back with a 76.

Kaitlyn Schroeder in the **Girls 13-18 Division** would birdie three holes to offset three double bogeys during her first round. Her fighting attitude would be the call of the day as she ended the opening round tied with steady playing Marissa Cardenas (76). One Stroke back at 77 would be Savannah, Georgia's own Rin Richardson. Richardson would drain two birdies to end with an even par score of 35 on her incoming nine.

The **Elite Tour Boys 13-15 Division** only had six in the field this week, but regardless Atlantic Beach native Rowen Parker was bringing his steady and vastly improved game to Fleming Island. His 2-over par 73 would set the pace and at the end of the first round of play he would find himself taking home a 3-stroke lead over Jacksonville's Alexander Waller and 4-strokes over Fleming Island Member Charles Lonsdale (77).

The **Boys 10-12 Division** had their smallest field of the year, but none the less it was go time. Brody Stevenson would continue his fine play compared to events gone by. Stevenson fired a little four over par 75. Right on his heels playing in his fourth event of the season was Country Club of Orange Park Member Chase Carroll. Carroll too would post a very nice 75 and at the end of the day he and Stevenson

would be tied at the top of the leaderboard. St. Augustine's Jackson Klauk, also playing well would be on the hunt, just one stroke back at 76.

Our up and comers in the **Foundation Division** would have nine boys and two girls in the field this week and by the scores after round one you can tell they have all been practicing. Six times a Champion Matthew French playing the tough front nine on day one would shoot a very nice 41 to take a one stroke lead over newcomer Tyler Mawhinney. Four back of the leader at 45 would be Alyzabeth Morgan and Richard Hayden Ruth.

Round two:

Top honors goes to Rowen Parker from the **Elite Tour Boys 13-15**. The young man popped off seven birdies on the day 38-33 for an even round of 71. When asked, Parker said he was hitting the ball solid all day and the only mistakes he made came on the green, three putting 3-times, missing numerous birdie opportunities. Not only did Parker win the Division title he also nipped Chase Carroll from the Boys 10-12 Division for the Overall Championship by four shots.

The Runner-up Alexander Waller played solid all day as well. Fourteen pars and two birdies was indeed play to be PROUD of on this Memorial Day Weekend. He would hoist the Runner-up Trophy.

Jay Adams, the **Boys 16-18 Division** overnight leader said he didn't have a winning attitude during round two not able to recover from a double bogey at the second hole of play.

Six strokes back after round one Tyler Broadus and John Paul Garrido had different visions for their final round and finishing scores. "**Never say die**" was their attitude. Both players would quickly apply a little pressure to the leaders. Broadus would fire a nice 75 on the day, while Garrido would record a 76.

Ryan Williams would turn at 37 and in the lead, but double bogeys at the 10th and 11th holes would make room for anyone wanting to challenge for the championship. Bouncing back with three consecutive pars Williams was able to post a score equal to that of Tyler Broadus at a 153 total to force a Sudden-death play-off. The play-off would be conducted on the par-3 10th hole. With a good crowd of spectators on hand, Broadus would win the toss, go first and stick it to 10 feet and win on the first play-off hole. Williams would take home the Runner-up Trophy and Garrido would take home the Third Place Trophy for his fine play.

In the **Girls 13-18 Division** Kaitlyn Schroeder continued her solid play from round one. A second round score of 77 would keep hard charging Orlando's Ainsley Mann and Palm Coasts Alexandra Gazzoli at bay despite their two lowest rounds of the day. Schroeder stroked the birdie pen four times on the scorecard and posted an even par back nine to claim her first win on the **Web.com Junior Players Tour**.

Gazzoli would post up four birdies on the day to make her move, while Mann would play solid golf tee too green. Mann would fire a final nine score of 1-under 34 to secure the runner-up spot, while Gazzoli would bring home the final nine at even par.

Congratulations to Kenzie Heba who broke 90 for the first time in tournament play. Kenzie actually achieved the feat in both rounds shooting 89-86. What's great is watching all our junior players grow to become better players.

The **Rising Tour Boys 13-15 Division** leaders found it a little tougher during the final round, but Andrew Riley from St. Johns, Florida still continued his outstanding and Elite Tour quality play firing a steady five over par 76 to compliment his outstanding first round of one under par to take home his fourth win of the season. Still playing steady was Sam Davis, but during the second round he was just unable to mount a charge to threaten the leader. Davis would be presented the Runner-up award for his outstanding play while Jack Barned would go to the awards podium once again for his fifth top three in a row, taking the third place trophy. Congratulations to Enrique Trabal who had his low tournament round ever of 87

The **Boys 10-12 Division** would once again have a great battle to the finish. With just one stroke separating the top three players round two was sure to be a slug fest. For Jackson Klauk it started out disappointedly with a double bogey at the very first hole of play and another at the long par-4 fourth hole, but with the attitude of "**a champion never looks back**" he mounted three birdies in his next four holes to catch the steady playing Chase Carroll and Brody Stevenson. All three players would make the turn with a three over par 39. Four pars in a row by each of the leaders would certainly create some drama and anticipation for all of those watching. Still one back, Klauk would then birdie at the par-4 14th to tie for the lead. Carroll and Stevenson would par once again. With the pressures of the final four holes approaching Klauk and Stevenson would bogey the 15th. Klauk would bounce back and par the 16th while Carroll would make bogey to once again tie for the lead with Klauk. Stevenson would bogey once again to drop two back.

The 17th and 18th holes would tell the truth and the winless Carroll dug deep to finish birdie-birdie to take home his first **NFJG TOUR – Web.com Junior Players Tour** event. Klauk showing outstanding sportsmanship would be happy with his play and took home the Runner-up Trophy.

Our **Foundation Tour** in round two absolutely lite it up!! 10 out of the 11 players improved their score over round one by 2-15 strokes with Grayson Kindig turning things around improving by 15 shots. Way to go Grayson!

Starting on the back nine, twelve time champion Alyzabeth Morgan would birdie the 17th hole to shoot the low round of the day, tied with the Foundation Boys Champion. She would shoot her lowest tournament round of 37. Dang! This girl is getting good!!

First round leader Matthew French would start his day in fine fashion with a birdie at the first hole (10th) to distance himself and go up three strokes over Tyler Mawhinney, but French would double the second

hole and Mawhinney would birdie the third hole to then tie for the lead. The tournament winner was up in the air, as it could end up being any ones tournament.

Richard Hayden Ruth would make his presence known, the young lad put a deuce on the par-4 second hole to climb back into the thick of it and to become one of the EAGLE CLUB Members. A double bogey at the 13th for French and a birdie by Mawhinney at the par-3 15th would be all that Mawhinney needed to secure his first win on the NFJG TOUR. French, however would apply a last minute charge by sinking a birdie on the final hole, which ended in a victory lap around the green with great emotion. Mawhinney, cool and calm would sink the par putt for the win and a tie for the low round of the day. Ruth would shoot a final score of 38 and French 39. Emmet Kuhlenkamp would also fire a nice 38.

I hope when these boys and girls are playing top level college golf and the PGA/LPGA Tours they remember their start on the NFJG TOUR.

Many thanks to Sole Golf, the Professional staff at The Golf Club of Fleming Island and to the many parents, grandparents, family members and friends that joined us for this special weekend.

Next up the Dr. Gordon Ira Golf Classic.

See you on the links!

Jack Aschenbach, PGA