



Pete Dye's Valley Open

TPC at Sawgrass – Pete Dye's Valley Course

June 28, 2017

Welcome to TPC at Sawgrass, Home of THE PLAYERS!

What a wonderful day to send the ball flying down the fairway. The Pete Dye's Valley Course was in the best shape ever and a true delight to play. With normal temperature, a light overcast and a slight breeze to keep things cooled down golf conditions couldn't be better. What was hot this past Wednesday was the warm up on the perfectly arranged practice tee. The setting gave nearly 90 players the feeling of visons of grander as they envisioned their future of one day hitting balls on the same turf as those competing in THE PLAYERS.

There is no doubt in my mind with the quality of play we have from our outstanding NFJG TOUR players that several of our boys and girls who go through the ranks of the NFJG TOUR will look back and never forget where they started and what great opportunities they were afforded. Then, give back to those who dream on.

WOW! Thousands of thanks to the staff at TPC Sawgrass. This professional staff proved once again why they are the best at what they do. Head Professional Brian Riddle and Tournament Coordinator Chase Davis ensured every last detail was looked after. Please send a note of thanks.

Now let the fireworks begin!

What also was perfect was the fire hot play of Jacksonville's Charles Collings. Collings a member at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club and a Junior TOUR Player in the **Boys 16-18 Division**, just a day earlier was playing against a field of PGA Professionals and top male adult amateurs in the **Florida Open Qualifier** at LPGA International in Daytona, Florida. Young Collings fired a one under par 71 to capture the top Amateur position and finished third overall in the field of nearly 70 to earn himself a spot in the upcoming FLORIDA OPEN.

In the largest field of the season Collings continued his great play in the NFJG TOUR's "**Pete Dye's Valley Open**" firing another impressive round of two under par 70 for the low round of the day. Finishing close behind was Fernandina's Jay Adams shooting a fine two over par 74 followed by TPC at Sawgrass Member Elliott Wright at 75.

Collings earning the Gold Medal would open his round with a bogey at the first and third hole. He would birdie the 15th and 18th holes to bring it back to even par. A perfect nine on the inward nine along with adding two birdies would give him four birdies on the day and another great finish. This would be Collings fifth win of the season. We're all Proud of you young man!

In the **Elite Tour Boys 13-15 Division** Fernandina's James Ballato would capture the title with a fantastic score of one under par 71. Ballato would also post four birdies on the day and admitted he could of really gone low, but had a couple of putting blunders. His round of 71 would be his lowest round of the season and good enough to capture his fifth win on TOUR.

Atlantic Beach Ford Chandler would be the Silver Medal Winner with his steady play. Chandler looking for his first win on TOUR would play consistent golf for 17 holes, but would uncharacteristically triple bogey the par-4 fourth hole. Chandler posted a two over par 74 which included three birdies.

I'm headed to Scotland, Charles Lonsdale would be the Bronze Medalist with a score of 78.

In the **Girls 13-18 Division** nine of the 12 players in the field had a shot at the title, but in the end two players would separate themselves. St. Augustine's Marissa Cardenas and Reni Jancsik of Ponte Vedra were in the mix once again. Both girls recently played in the First Coast Women's Amateur Championship at Long Point earning the first ever NFJG TOUR exemptions to compete. At the Pete Dye's Valley Open they would both battle it out once again. Admitting, not playing their best golf they would battle it out to the end, never giving up and taking what the course would give them. A par at the final hole by Cardenas and a bogey by Jancsik would be enough to tie for the Championship at 81 each. A Sudden death playoff would follow and reveal Cardenas the Champion for her third win of the season and her first playoff win.

Jancsik would fight hard and for her efforts would take home the Silver Medal for her 12th top five finish of the season.

Newcomer Bridget Rempe from Ocala, Florida, Jacksonville's Kylie Turner and Hannah Stevens would all tie at 84 to earn the bronze medal.

In the **Rising Tour Boys 13-15 Division** there's a number of players who are advancing their game and are getting ready to move up to the Elite TOUR. Nearly half of the field broke the needed ELITE TOUR scoring average and that is great to see.

Jacksonville's Sam Davis and St. John's Chadwick Taylor would play stellar golf posting par after par with an occasional bogey. As it should be, it was down to the final holes of play that would determine the player who comes out on top. Both players would birdie the par-5 17th hole. On the 18th hole Taylor seeking his first win would tee it up one stroke ahead, but Davis also looking for his first win was determined to make that one stroke up. Davis did just that as he parred the difficult dog-leg left par-4 finishing hole to finish at 77. Taylor would bogey the hole to shoot 77 as well

forcing a sudden death playoff where Davis would earn the Gold Medal and his first TOUR TITLE, Taylor received the Silver and hanging in there once again and coming to the awards podium was Jonathan Greco at 78 for the Bronze.

The **Boys 10-12 Division** also had some fireworks going off early. The battle in the division has continued all year between numerous players. This week we welcome back from North Berwick, Scotland Valdemar Hundeboll and welcome newcomer Hill Flanigan from Ponte Vedra.

The battle continues. This week Valdemar Hundeboll would start his day with birdies at the 1st, 3rd and 4th holes to take a commanding lead, but the follow up of three bogeys would bring him back to par by the turn. Phillip Dunham would nail two birdies on his opening nine to fire a one under par 35 on the side to take the early lead, but a double at the 11th hole soften the lead.

Carson Brewer would be three back at the turn with 38, but three birdies would bring him back in the game. Hundeboll would birdie no more, but par was his friend as he carded a final score of 74. Carson's great comeback would also total a two over par 74 to tie for the lead. Dunham would finish at 75 to take home the Bronze Medal.

A sudden death play-off would take place on hole #1. Brewer winning the draw would tee it up first and would pipe it long down the middle. Hundeboll would push his drive right and would be forced to lay up on the par-5. Brewer pulling the three wood would tag that shot, but the ball drifted right, pin high in the rough short siding himself to the pin. Hundeboll with a perfect lay-up would hit his approach shot into the greenside bunker giving Brewer the advantage. Brewer needing to finesse a soft flop for his first win of the season would decelerate the swing at impact and would leave his shot short of the green, hitting the hill and rebounding back into the bunker. Hundeboll now feeling the edge would powder puff his bunker shot to three feet of the pin. Brewer would get out, but would need to make a 15 footer to save par and the play-off. He would miss and Hundeboll would make the three footer to claim victory and the Gold Medal. Brewer would take the Silver Medal for his outstanding efforts.

The **Foundation Division** Would have 11 players in the field this week and to no shock the young tour players would show their skills. Emmet Kuhlenkamp posted six pars and just three bogeys to shoot the low round of the day with a 39. The two time Champion edged out six times a champion Matthew French by two shots. Chase Ricks would the Bronze Medal Winner with a 43. This would be his third Bronze of the season.

Next up on July 10th and 11th is the North Florida Junior Amateur at the World Golf Village Slammer and Squire followed by the Jacksonville Junior Championship at Timuquana Country Club and Sawgrass Country Club. These are two events every member or eligible past member should play in. This is your championship.

That's it for now, so we'll see you on the links!

Sincerely,

Jack Aschenbach, PGA