



The Jacksonville Junior Open

Jacksonville Golf and Country Club

Monday, June 26, 2017

What a great day at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club. It was a little warm, but things could not have been better. If you played yesterday you found out what great condition this golf course is in. It's always a pleasure to come to JAX for the annual "*Jacksonville Junior Open*". As with many clubs around the North Florida area, club and course modifications and improvements are being made to update facilities and improve playing and practice conditions.

JG&CC is currently nearing the end of their practice area renovation and the project is looking pretty SWEET! With the range closed for player's warm-up I'd like to give a shout out to the staff at Windsor Parke Golf Club who allowed our players to utilize their practice facility. I love teamwork!

If I had to rate the course condition, I'd say 10. Assistant Professional Adam Eiswerth, said "It's the best he has seen since he's been there" and I agree. She's a gem and if you can get out there, go enjoy around.

Nearly 70 players hit the links to vie for the title of the Jacksonville Junior Open Champion and seven walked away with coveted medal, "THE GOLD" NFJG TOUR Medal.

As of late, we've started our recap with the low rounds of the day regardless of division and this week **Brody Stevenson** from the **Boys 10-12 Division** gets the nod.

Feeding off his stellar play at the **North Florida PGA Junior Championship** just a week prior Stevenson, starting off on the back side of the double tee start would begin his round in perfect fashion, with a PERFECTO nine straight pars. Stevenson's turn at even par would give him a powerful feeling of "King of the Hill" and the confidence of concurring a most difficult golf course.

Making the turn and by the 15th hole Stevenson would find himself two under par before making a bogey at the Par-4 seventh hole (his 16th) and then again at ninth, a most difficult finishing hole. Even par 72 would be what it would take to bring home the Gold Medal.

Waiting patiently around the scoring tent relishing in the moment of recapping his SEVEN BIRDIES was Jackson Klauk. Klauk too would open his front nine at even par, although his round would start out with birdie at the opening 10th hole followed by a double bogey at the 11th and a follow-up bogey at the 12th before he said, enough is enough! The young superstar then birdied four out of his next six holes to get back in it, to win it. On his inward nine he would struggle on five holes, but on three of those holes he would perform magic with three more birdies to balance the bogey train. Klauk with his seven birdies on the day would shoot three over par 75. With the greens firm and fast he and many certainly thought that would be good enough for the gold, but in this case steady par took the lead and the title, but seven birdies is a feat in itself and is certainly fun and exciting golf. Klauk would earn the Runner up Silver Medal.

Windsor Parke's Gavin Fleming making his return to the NFJG TOUR after a long layoff would birdie three holes of his own to tie Jacksonville's Carson Brewer at 77 to take the Bronze Medals.

The **Boys 16-18 Division** would have a pair of three over par 75's to lead the field. Ponte Vedra's William Levinson and Jacksonville's Charles Collings both playing in there six event of the season each transitioned the golf course somewhat painlessly. Each would have a few bogeys and a double a piece, but birdies would counter any errant shots. Collings would birdie the 6th, 8th and 17th holes, while Levinson captured the 8th and 16th. In the end, sudden death would be the call and to the 9th hole they went. With only a short gap to fit in the play-off the two players would go to the difficult par-4 9th hole to determine this year's champion. Both would continue their fine and tie the play-off hole. The next shot would be a winning shot for sure as they headed to the 100 yard marker for a closest to the pin shootout. Collings having the honors and would stiff a gap wedge to 18 feet, hitting the green pin high and releasing. With the pin just over the center ridge Levinson would do the same. Dead on line Levinson's ball would hit 15 or so feet in front of the pin, hitting the up sloop, bouncing once coming to a check spin then sucking back three feet, ending up 20 feet from the pin. Levinson showing outstanding sportsmanship would congratulate the victor, Charles Collings with a smile on his face. Two great shots, both winners and both true champions.

St. Augustine's Logan Neel would take the Bronze Medal with a pro par of 80.

In the **Rising Tour Boys 13-15** Division Ponte Vedra's Jonathan Greco showed his vastly improved game to a field of 13. His three over par score of 75 was a fantastic score and enough to take home his first NFJG TOUR Gold Medal and his low round of the season. Greco coming off a great round at San Jose Country Club where he shot four par has found the secret or simply has worked very hard on his game. Known to shoot in the high 80's and 90's and now in the low to mid 70's is something to be very proud of. I'd be trying to find out who he is getting instruction from. Greco's round included 13 pars and one birdie.

Andrew Davis advancing from the Boys 10-12 Division to the Rising TOUR would next in line and would take home his first Rising TOUR medal. Davis with two birdies on the day shot a respectable score of 78. Adam Vermut tied with Max Asher at 83 would both secure the Bronze Medal for their first TOUR awards of the season.

The **Girls 13-18 Division** would see a first time champion. Remember the smiling face of Isabel Matos after she struck the perfect shot on the Ocean Links Course at Omni Amelia Island Plantation during the Adult-Junior Championship. Well, she's smiling again and this time because she is taking home her first ever GOLD Medal for claiming victory in the Jacksonville Junior Open. Matos, first in after the round would have to wait nearly an hour to determine her fate and one by one she would become more excited as she stood proudly with Mom waiting for the end result. Champion Matos battled a field of 11 and shot her second best score of the season with an 86 nipping Alexandra Gazzoli (87) by one stroke who nipped Marissa Cardenas (88) by one stroke. Matos birdied the par-3 twelfth and the par-4 fifteenth hole on her way to victory. This was Gazzoli's fourth Runner-up Award. Cardenas would take the Bronze Medal.

The **Elite TOUR Boys 13-15 Division** would only have five players in the field this week with US Junior Amateur Qualifying going on at St. John's Golf and Country Club, but the five that competed would all battle down to the end. Alexander Waller, playing well of late would birdie four holes during his round of 81. For Waller, it was the category of **OTHER SCORES** that brought everyone back into the mix. Waller would throw up an eight at the par-4 second hole and a six at the par-3 twelfth.

Andrew Riley also playing well all year stumbling here and there as well would manage to push hard to right the ship on his final three holes of his round to catch and tie the leader Waller forcing a sudden death play-off. One shot back was Ober Theam at 82. Theam would take home the Bronze Medal.

The sudden death play-off would start on the par-3 17th hole and move on to the par-4 18th where Riley would make his first birdie of the day to capture the Gold and move closer in the Series Point Standings race. Waller winning the Silver Medal has a comfortable lead of over 2000 points, but there are three **Web.com Junior Players TOUR** events remaining worth double the points.

Our **Foundation Divisions** had nine players in the Boys and two in the Girls. The battles continued here as friendly rivals Richard Hayden Ruth and Mathew French continued their back and forth battle. This week Ruth would end up on top and in victory lane. Mom caddying for the first time, might have had something to do with that. Ruth parred three out his last four holes to take the lead shooting a score of 41. French shot 42 and taking home a Bronze Medal and his second award of the season was birthday boy, Chase Ricks. Grant Mckinney and Cole Taylor would be the only players to post a birdie on the day. They each birdied the par-3 17th hole.

Alyzabeth Morgan would take home the **Foundation Girls Gold** Medal for shooting a fine score of 43.

Next up is the sold out TPC at Sawgrass "Pete Dye's Valley Open" followed by the North Florida Junior Open at Slammer and Squire and the Jacksonville Junior Championship at Timuquana and Sawgrass Country Club.

See you on the links!

Sincerely

Jack Aschenbach, PGA