

The North Florida Junior Amateur

Tournament Story



World Golf Village – Slammer and Squire

July 10 and 11, 2017



The **North Florida Junior Amateur** again this year gained more ground. Over the past three years this event has grown from 68 players in the first ever event to 73 and now to 86 registered players after tournament deadline. This event is becoming a Junior Players favorite and it should be. **The World Golf Village** is a TOUR stop everyone should have on their tournament list. The course, **The Slammer and Squire** has always been in great shape and a true joy to play. True, the weather threatens us every year, but the Golf Gods bless us year after year to insure we get it all in. This year was no exception. We did have a 30 minute delay in play due to a storm that just skirted the course forcing us to bring all the kids in or seek shelter.

Many thanks to the WGV Staff, NFJG TOUR staff and parents who executed a well-designed evacuation of the course. Shortly after we were back out to finish the five holes needing to be completed to get the first round in the books. The course was a little wet, making for a longer carry on tee and approach shots, but for many it made no difference. Well prepared to take on the challenges and elements, players put together incredible scores weather during a certain nine hole stretch or for the entire 18 or 36-hole competition.

One of our players travelling from Tallahassee had one of those spectacular tournaments. Hayden Smith the **Boys 16-18 Division** Runner-up fired a pair of 33's on the back nine of both days. During round one he birdied the 10th, eagled the 11th. Smith then birdied the 13th, 15th and 16th holes. During his second round Smith birdied 15, 16, 17 and 18 to close out his tournament and spectacular play. Ironically he bogeyed the tough par-4 12th hole both days posting scores of 73-73.

Our Champion and overall winner Parker Miller posted 10 birdies during his 36-hole chapter. Miller shot an outstanding two under par 70 followed by an even par round of 72 to capture both titles. Miller's play, stellar as it was earned him AJGA PBE recognition, FJT recognition and put himself into the ranks as a champion for the first time in three years. Two under par would also be his low round on the NFJG TOUR. Grandpa Miller is standing a little taller this week for some odd reason. Good on you Parker!!

Logan Neel, the Boys 16-18 Division Player of the Year point's leader would have seven birdies of his own as he too would post some pretty good scores of 73-74 which would be good enough to take the third place award and remain 1800 points ahead of Fernandina's Jay Adams with two events left to play. Logan Underwood would tie Neel for the third spot with scores of 72-75, but would fall during the scorecard playoff.

In the **Elite Tour Boys 13-15 Division** James Ballato from Fernandina Beach would trail St. Johns Andrew Riley by two strokes. Riley would post up a one under par 71 to Ballato's 73 to take home an overnight lead. He would post up 15 pars, two birdies and a lone bogey on the day, but in the end it could have been that lone lip out bogey at the par-3 13th hole that cost him the championship.

In the wee morning of round two Riley would extend that lead with opening pars on the first three holes. Ballato would go the other direction as he triple bogeyed the first hole and double bogeyed the second to fall well back. Riley would continue his steady play, but a birdie at the fourth hole by Ballato and another at the par-5 8th hole accompanied with an EAGLE at the par-5 11th hole would put a whole new spin on the leader board. Still comfortable with his lead Riley would come to the final three holes still two strokes up, but a birdie at the 16th and 18th holes by Ballato would square the championship and a Sudden death play-off would take place. Ballato would forge forward to become this year's Champion.

Ben Williams also traveling from Tallahassee would record a 76 on day one, but would lead the Elite Tour on round two with a very nice one under par 71 to take sole possession of third place. Williams drilled five birdies on the day.



In the **Rising Tour Boys 13-15 Division** Andrew McLauchlan showed off what working hard on your game will do. McLauchlan on day one paying in the largest field of the tournament posted a respectable score of 79 trailing St. Augustine's Logan Flores by four strokes. Flores posted a great round of three over par 75 to take the overnight lead.

In round two McLauchlan would birdie the 8th 12th and 13th holes to fight back and capture the title. Flores playing great golf would have two unfortunate holes resulting in doubles at the 10th and 18th to end up two back of McLauchlan upon completion of play. Flores would take home the Runner up Award. John Bennett at a total score of 162 would defeat St. Augustine's Connor Holcroft in a scorecard play-off to secure the third place trophy.

In our **Girls 13-18 Division** young Kaitlyn Schroeder took home a one stroke lead over five times a champion Lisa Colee from DeLand, Florida. Schroeder a three time Champion herself knows what it is to stay in the game and fight to the end. Her round one start was a little nerve racking I'm sure for Mom who was watching on the sidelines. A triple at the very first hole is a huge hole to climb out of. Add a bogey at the 2nd, 5th, 7th and 8th holes and most would have sagging

shoulders walking with their heads down, but not this fighter. Never give up the ship is the best mindset. A birdie at the par-4 ninth, four more pars, followed by two more birdies would now put Schroeder one ahead of the pack.

Katherine Jakeway was kind of in the same funk as the other two leaders. Playing OK, but Just not able to get things going as they had hoped. Two front nine birdies would give Jakeway the early lead when she turned at 38, but a tougher back nine would end in 41 for a total 79 on the day and tied with Colee, one back of the leader Schroeder.

Round two would start out for Schroeder on her front nine, but it would end similar to the start of the round the day prior. A bogey and double bogey at the 8th and 9th holes would cost her the lead. Colee would post up a nice one over par 37 on the front nine and Jakeway came out swinging for the fences as she posted back-to-back birdies on the par-4 3rd and par-5 5th hole to go two under. Another birdie at the 7th would leave her in the lead at the turn.

Schroeder again would fight hard and mounted a charge on the toughest nine to shoot two under par 34 on her inward nine to nip Colee by one who shot even par on the back. Schroeder, on this day would claim victory. Colee would take the Runner up spot and Jakeway playing well all day would take the third place award. Great playing Ladies. It's great to watch you grow and mature in life and in your games.

The **Boys 10-12 Division** had eight players in the field this week including newcomer Marcus Lam and North Florida PGA Junior Champion Chase Carroll.

Round one would be all Danny Erickson. Erickson would post up a beautiful one over par 73 at the **World Golf Village – Slammer and Squire**. It's certainly evident, Danny Erickson likes this course as he was also this seasons **World Golf Village Hall of Fame Invitational Champion** where he posted an even par round of 72 to take home the championship. This week Erickson would post up the 73 and drive a nail in the coffin with another even par round of 72 during round two to finish with an overall score of just one over par 145 to become a serious contender for the Overall Championship. Erickson obviously found a secret to concurring the **Slammer and Squire**.

Chase Carroll fresh off his win at Reunion Resort would represent well, especially at the very start of the tournament. Carroll would start out birdie-birdie, but a couple double bogeys, both on par-5s would make his stellar play look average. Look at the stats, par-5s cost many players great rounds because of the risk reward.

Carson Brewer would slam home three birdies in his opening round to finish at 76 to stay three back of the leader.

In round two Ty Boston would begin his round with back-to-back birdies at the first two holes. He would end his round six shots better than round one. Carson Brewer and Chase Carroll would play steady, but would mount no charge to put heat on the kid now known as the SLAMMER Champion. Also receiving the rewards for their fine play would be Carroll who would be presented the Runner-up Cup and Carson Brewer who would bring home the Third Place Award.

The **Foundation Division** this week would only have Boys in the field and young Tyler Mawhinney was seeking his third championship trophy in a row. Playing the back nine both days in their 18-hole competition Mawhinney would birdie the 14th hole, card five pars to take the lead by four over Emmet Kuhlenkamp. Kuhlenkamp was only one back of the leader at one over par going into the 16th hole, but stumbled on the final three finishing holes to end up four back. Richard Hayden Ruth would be three back and Ryan Houck who had back-to-back birdies at the 14th and 15th holes would be eight back.

In round two Kuhlenkamp would again make a push to catch the leader by the 14th hole (their 5th hole) but a double bogey for the second day in a row at the most difficult par-4 17th would eliminate any chances of catching the leader. Kuhlenkamp would shoot 39 on his round

Mawhinney would birdie the par-5 16th and shoot 39 to take home his third Web.com Junior Players Tour Championship Trophy in a row. Kuhlenkamp would take the Runner-up cup and Richard Hayden Ruth would take home the Third Place Cup.

Max Cullen, Emmet Kuhlenkamp, Cameron Rocha and Ryan Houck would all post their lowest tournament rounds of the season.

OK that is it for this event. Next up is the Jacksonville Junior Championship presented by JAGA – Jacksonville Area Golf Association.

Don't forget to sign up for the Awards Banquet!

See you on the links!

Sincerely,

Jack Aschenbach, PGA