

# The University of Florida Open

## The Mark Bostick Golf Club

Gainesville, Florida



It was once again a grand time to be in GATOR COUNTRY and what a warm welcome we received from the Head Golf Professional Scott Hampton and his wonderful staff. This was our fourth visit to Gator Nation and the Mark Bostick Golf Course was showcasing why this course is amongst the TOP golf courses in North Florida. The golf course was simply "gorgeous". Greener than green and plush would be a very good description and I think all 62 players who played in the NFJG TOUR's "***University of Florida Open***" would agree. There were a congregation of Gator alumni in the spectating field and many of the junior tour players wore the colors as well. Along with the Gator logo's many of our players and parents wore the

logo of their favorite college of choice and that was great to see. Next year we will have everyone wear their colors and then we will have a little team side bet between colleges. Sounds like fun, don't you think? Remember your heard that here first in case anyone steals the idea.

Well it started out a little on the chilly side and many forgot the jacket to combat the chill, including me, but by noon the sun was shining and the temps were rising to a comfortable 73 degrees. What's good about going to Gainesville UF is that we get to reach out to some of the local players from around that area. In the ***Boys 16-18 Division*** Orlando's Keoni Martin drove up to let folks know that he's got some game. With the winds whipping every now-an-again Martin manage to navigate the course and the tricky to putt greens to an even par round of 70 for the low round of the day. Martin would have three bogeys on the day, but would level things out with birdies at the 3, 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> holes.

Jacksonville's Ryan Poblacion would be the next closest to the division champion with a score of 79 and would take home the NFJG TOUR Silver Medal. This would be Poblacion's third top-5 finish in just three events. Rounding out the medal winners was Jax Beach resident Sam Harrell. Harrell would be just one back of Poblacion with a score of 80. Three more players would tie at 81.

In the ***Elite Tour Girls 13-18 Division***, Jacksonville's Kailyn Schroeder would battle to the end with Key Stone Heights Camille Jackson and Jacksonville's Kylie Turner. All three would make the turn tie or just one shot back, but steady par play by Schroeder would prove to be the upper edge and the correct remedy to take home another NFJG TOUR Gold Medal to add to her collection. Schroeder would shoot 75. Jackson (77) and Turner (78) both played well and would take the Silver and Bronze Medal accordingly.

In the **Elite Tour Boys 13-15 Division** Campbell Kennedy was off and running again for his second victory in a row. Fresh off the Pablo Creek Match Play Championship win, Kennedy posted up a nice 75 on a very difficult Donald Ross designed track to nip fellow Green Cove Spring's superstar Charles Lonsdale by one stroke. Only one birdie would be had by the top two finishers. Ending up with the Bronze medal this week would be St. Augustine's Charles Kurtz. Playing borderline golf in the Elite Tour Division, this round of golf was a deciding factor as to whether or not he would be moved back down to the Rising Tour Division. A strong finish at the end of his round with birdies at the 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> holes would be good enough to maintain his ELITE status.

The **Rising Tour Boys 13-15 Division** Ryan Letterly visiting us from Anthony, Florida would post up one of his best rounds to capture the Gold Medal. With only six birdies in the field of 15, Letterly would possess two of those six birdies on his way to victory.

Welcome back Gainesville's Christopher Terzian! Terzian flaunting a polished swing and game would make his debut count and he and Ponte Vedra's Danny Erickson would battle to a tie at 79 each. Terzian would win the scorecard playoff with a 37 on his inward nine. Three double bogeys on Erickson's back nine would seal his fate for top dog award, but he would take home the Bronze. All-in-all a great showing by young players headed toward the ELITE TOUR.

Our **Rising Tour Girls 13-18 Division** saw some stellar play by Mackenzie McCormack who claimed her second Gold Medal in her last four events. She too has her eyesight set on the Elite Division. McCormack would shoot a very respectable 81 to claim a four shot victory over Jacksonville's Thanya Arasu. Middleburg's Victoria Greene would complete the medal presentations by grasping the Bronze with a score of 86.

The **Boys 10-12 Division** still has not cooled down. These boys are getting it on with low scores and head-to-head battles each and every week. I expected this field to be huge this week, but it didn't pan out as predicted. With seven players in the field, Phillip Dunham grabbed the limelight with his sixth win of the season. Dunham would have three birdies on the day and would narrowly escape with victory after two disastrous holes at the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> holes. A birdie at the Par-3 15<sup>th</sup> would bring things back to normal. Gavin Fleming would be the runner-up and would take home the Silver Medal. He would string nine pars coming in, but triple bogey at the par-3 8<sup>th</sup> hole would make things tough.

Ponte Vedra's Cam Goldknopf would battle Gainesville's Aaron DeWitt for the Bronze Medal. Each would record an 80 on the round and Goldknopf would win the scorecard playoff.

The Foundation **Elite and Rising Division** would post up some pretty good scores. Mateo Elliott would win once again on the Elite side of the house with a nice score of 84. He and Ryan Houck would take it to the final holes to determine the championship. Houck three strokes down after nine would mount a charge, but would come up one stroke short at 85. Lucas Elliott at 94 for win the Bronze.

In the **Foundation Rising** only four players would make the trip. Tavi Sport would fire an amazing 51 with a 10 at the par-5 7<sup>th</sup> hole. Yep it's a tough hole. As a matter of fact Sport's 10 would be the lowest score on the hole amongst the field. This would be Tavi Sports sixth win and five in a row.

Laila McNair playing in her second event of the Spring Series would end up three strokes behind Sport at 54. With a smile from ear-to-ear she would proudly claim the Silver Medal. She would have an 11 at the par-5 7<sup>th</sup>.

Next up is the “School’s Team Challenge” at The Golf Club of South Hampton of April 15<sup>th</sup>. Sign up has been slow which has me scratching my head.

After that is the most widely attended tournament of the year. “The Titleist Invitational”. Invite a friend and lets’ really make this a HUGE event. Thanks for doing so.

We’ll see you on the links!

Sincerely,

Jack Aschenbach, PGA