

# **2017 Cimarrone Open**

## **Tournament Story**

Cimarrone Golf Club

November 18, 2017

It's almost as if NFJG has a secret phone line straight to Mother Nature, because once again the NFJG TOUR had amazing weather for their event. Clear sunny skies and a gorgeous 73 degrees makes for a nice day on the golf course. However, unlike recent tournaments where players conquered the course, the Golf Gods at Cimarrone had other thoughts. The course only yielded 18 rounds out of nearly 80 in the 70s, and the average score for all 18-hole player's raised significantly! The course was unrelenting in its onslaught against the players and it was a tough day for most competitors, with firm greens and the toughest of pin locations. While all the NFJG players are tough stars, there were only a few on this day who would shine and power through the course's best attempts to derail them while on their way to the awards stand.

Let's see how each division finished.

**Boy's 16-18:** Peyton Billings (76) and Alexander Whitmore (78), who played in the same group, had a great battle going on all round long. With a double tee start and starting on the 10<sup>th</sup> hole they would find themselves separated by just two shots at the turn, making it crunch time on the back nine. Billings the steady player that he is would show his talents as he fought and clawed for eight pars on his incoming nine holes to capture the championship for his second win in a row. Whitmore would birdie the 5<sup>th</sup> hole (his 14<sup>th</sup> of the day) to tighten the score to just one stroke, but with the pressure on to birdie the last to tie for the lead Whitmore would bogey, while Billings pared for a two stroke advantage. Will Grattan (81) returned to the NFJG TOUR after several years astray and finished in solo third only three strokes behind Whitmore. Welcome home Will! Great job guys!

**Girls 13-18:** There's something about Cimarrone Golf Club the NFJG TOUR Girls love as they showcased the largest field of the day with 17 players. The "Cimarrone Open" was a great showing for the ladies. Way to represent ladies! While only four strokes separated first and fourth place in this division, it was Lacey Tucker (75) who prevailed for the victory. She carded three birdies on the day, including two back-to-back at the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> holes (her 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>). Tucker would not only win the GOLD, but she would take home the first of two fully paid exceptions to the "**LEN'S FRIENDS**" Golf Tournament to be played on December 17<sup>th</sup> at TPC Sawgrass. One more exception will be given at the "**Open at the Hills**" on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Lisa Colee (77) and Olivia Whitten (77) battled it out to end up tied for second. Colee would win the scorecard playoff to take home the Runner up Award and Whitten would finish in third.

**Elite Tour Boys 13-15:** Now its back-to-back events needing a playoff in this division. Sounds like a pretty competitive field to me! This time it was James Clay Tucker (75) edging out Andrew Riley (75) with a birdie on the first playoff hole. While both players ended their rounds with a three-over 75, each would take very different approaches and routes to achieve this score. Riley was Mr. Steady with one birdie, 14 pars, and only three holes over par. Tucker however was a roller coaster of scoring with 7 pars, 7 bogeys, and 4 birdies! It was this up and down play with two bogeys on the last three holes that caused Tucker to be

required to play extra holes to earn his title. Tucker would not only play off for the division title he would also be playing off for the OVERALL 13-18 title and the fully paid exception to the “**LEN’S FRIENDS**” Golf Tournament being played on December 17<sup>th</sup> at TPC Sawgrass. Congrats James Clay!

Reed Lotter (78) finished closely behind in third with the only other round in the 70s in this division. Lotter starting at the #1 hole would begin his round with a triple bogey at the first and double at the second. His comeback with multiple birdies would give him a shot at the title, but a tough hill to climb with the steady play of the leaders.

**Rising Tour Boys 13-15:** This division was essentially a runaway with Jon Bennett (78) shooting the only round on the 70s in this division, and winning by a margin of five strokes over second place Adam Vermut (83) and seven over third place Max Asher (85). Bennett’s consistency resulted in him carding 13 pars or better on the day, the only player in double figures in this stat, helped him earn the title in this tournament.

**Boys 10-12:** Similar to the Boys 16-18 division, the top two finishers in this division were paired together allowing them to keep tabs on each other throughout the day. Gavin Fleming (75) duked it out with Phillip Dunham (77) all day long. Fleming and Dunham would turn just one stroke apart. Fleming 39 and Dunham 40. Both would birdie the par-5 first hole (their 10<sup>th</sup>), however Fleming made the turn extremely hot recording three birdies in his first five holes on his back nine!. Fleming would double bogey his 11<sup>th</sup> hole (hole #2) to bring Dunham back to all even, but would birdie the next hole to take the lead and never let go. He wasn’t scared at all of the talk of Dunham’s impressive 66 during his last event. Garret Ebbert (83) tried his best to keep up with these two, but on this day, no one else could, so he finished in third.

**Foundation Elite:** This brand new 18-hole division had a great turnout for this event, their largest field of the young season with twelve players! It was a hotly contested division too with the top six players (half of the field) all ending within four strokes of each other. In the end it was Chase Ricks (85) edging out the Elliot brothers, Mateo (86) and Lucas (86), who tied for second only one stroke behind. This division also produced five players who recorded at least 7 pars or better!

**Foundation Rising:** In the 9-hole Foundation Division, it was also a pretty tight competition with everyone outside of the champion Trevor Challice (42) who won by five strokes and ended up with pars on two-thirds of the holes he played! The margin between second and last place was only a mere five strokes! Lucas Giminez (47) prevailed in the second place spot by one stroke over Dylan Frein (48) and Tavi Sport (48) who both tied for third and barely edged out Alexander Stewart (49) by one stroke.

We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

See you on the links!

Jack Aschenbach, PGA