

The Fernandina Open

Amelia River Golf Club

June 3, 2017

Great job to everyone who participated in the first ever "**Fernandina Open**". This one day event held at Amelia River Golf Course was truly a huge success. The course is a player favorite and I know many were disappointed they already had other tournament and personal plans set when I announced the event on short notice. With the "**Public Trust Invitational**" postponed until October a void was created and I felt the need to fill the void with a short notice event at beautiful Amelia Island. I'm glad I did! Richard Vermut wrote "Great event this past weekend. Amelia River is a fun course." Richard hit the nail right on the head. Golf is supposed to be fun, but there are those courses that just beat you up hole after hole, sucking your fun energy out of your system. Amelia River gives you good feels all the way around the course, so thanks for playing. One thing for sure the feel of weather certainly was about 60 degrees warmer, which got the staff talking. We've played Amelia River for the past five years (normally January - February) and only once was it above 45 degrees, so it was nice to see the course when it was green and warm.

There was some great play during the "**Open**" this past Sunday, Eagle Landings Cody Carroll returned to the TOUR to end his junior golf career. Says he has some unfinished business and wants to compete in many of the Summer Tournament Series events. Carroll shot an impressive one under par 71 to post the low round of the tournament and claim gold in the **Boys 16-18 Division**. His round included two EAGLES at the par-5 first and fifth holes plus two birdies on the day. Carroll is a senior and will be attending the University of North Florida under a golf scholarship playing for Head Coach Scott Schroeder. Carroll has a golf resume as strong as any and will make the STRONG division 1 UNF team even stronger. Five NFJG TOUR players are headed to the team and did you know there are (I believe 5 or 6) players on the team now who were past NFJG TOUR Players. Good to be close to home and play on a great college team.

This week we welcomed to the TOUR four new members, Trace Carter, Katelin and Anika Richards plus Hudson Drum who all played in their first event.

In the **Boys 10-12 Division** Phillip Dunham would add another gold medal to his collection. Dunham would be just one stroke behind Carroll in the tournament overall. Gavin Fleming would fire a solid one over par 73 to earn the Silver Medal and newcomer Trace Carter would take the Bronze Medal with a score of 77.

In the **Elite Tour Boys 13-15 Division** Campbell Kennedy was at it again, but this time he needed some extra golf to determine himself the champion as Adam Vermut tied him at 75 each. A birdie at the first would make Kennedy the victor. Eddie Erickson finding his game of late would claim the Bronze with a nice score of 77.

Our **Elite Girls 13-18 Division** resulted in our newest member Katelin Richards going head to head with Tour Champion Lacey Tucker. Each would post a score of 79 to tie for the lead. Richards would birdie the 18th hole to force the playoff and then would win the play-off to record her first victory on TOUR.

In the ***Rising Tour Boys Division***, home grown Amelia River member AJ Corsi would show some home field advantage as he proudly displayed his first gold medal on TOUR. Corsi shot a very impressive score of 79 to fend off "The Cush" Thomas Cush by one stroke. Cody Tucker would settle for the Bronze.

The ***Girls Rising Tour*** witnessed Haile Plantation's Vanessa Hatch win her first event of the season with a score of 96. Palencia's Grace Richards, two back would own the Bronze.

In the ***Foundation Rising Division*** Cash Winch won his second event in a row with a fine score of 44 to edge out Randy Cavanagh and Hudson Drum. There was no Foundation Elite Division this week.

Many thanks to Allan Clack, General Manager and his professional staff for the opportunity and the warm welcome and great experience. Our 2018-2019 open season event will be at Amelia River on October 14th along with the "Fernandina Open" in June.

Once again, congratulations to all our champions and top finishers.

Up next is the Dr. Gordon Ira Golf Classic. Sign up early there's a lot to play for.

Keep practicing with a purpose and we'll see you on the links!

Jack Aschenbach, PGA