

# The NFJG TOUR Challenge

## The Golf Club at South Hampton

March 25, 2018



This past weekend we hit the links at The Golf Club at South Hampton. If you haven't been there in a while you're going to be impressed with the work and the reconstruct that is going on around the clubhouse. The entire practice facility is getting an impressive face lift which when it is all said and done is going to be the envy of many great area golf courses. Personally, I can't wait to see it when it's all completed and open for use.

This event was the annual NFJG TOUR Challenge, normally a well-attended event, but spring break had a little bit to do with the low number of players in the field, not to mention the Florida Junior Tour had an event at Eagle Harbor Golf Club with many of our area junior players in the field. In the **Boys 16-18 Division** Logan Underwood from the NFJG TOUR topped the field of area players by finishing in 6<sup>th</sup> position with scores of 75-72. Peyton Billings was next finishing tied for 11<sup>th</sup> with scores of 75-75. Sixteen NFJG TOUR players and many past members were in the field of 60. In the **Girls 16-18 Division** three NFJG TOUR Players competed with Kaitlyn Schroeder finishing tied for fourth place in the field of 18.

In the NFJG TOUR Challenge, welcome back Izzy Pellot.

In the **Elite Tour Girls 13-18 Division**, Pellot, not totally happy with her last performance at Eagle Harbor during the "Harbor Open" came back with a vengeance. She would birdie five times during the course of the round to record the tournament low round with a two under par 70 to take home the NFJG TOUR GOLD Medal. Last week's champion, Jacksonville's Lacey Tucker, still playing well could not get the birdie putts to fall, but outstanding ball striking lead to a fine score of 75 which would be good enough to capture the NFJG TOUR Silver Medal. 2017 Player of the Year Tori Mouton would take the Bronze Medal position with a birdie-less round of 79.

This week with only two 16-18 Division players in the field we joined the Elite Tour Boys 13-15 Division and the Boys 16-18 Division to create the **Boys 13-18 Division**. Jacksonville's James Clay Tucker would also have a great birdie experience on the course as he dropped six of those under par rascals to finish up with a very fine one under par 71 to take home his sixth NFJG GOLD of the season. With the win, Tucker would take a 100 point lead in the Spring Series Points Standings over Match Play Champion Campbell Kennedy.

Brody Stevenson would have another good day on the course as he continues to maneuver to the front of the pack at each tour event. Working hard on his game Stevenson would claim rights to the Silver

Medal nipping out Andrew Riley and John Bennett by two strokes. Riley would win a scorecard playoff for the Bronze Medal.

Newcomer Jake McCranie of Lake City would make his debut on the NFJG TOUR and would fire his best round with a score of 75 to take home his first ever Gold Medal in the **Rising Tour Boys 13-15 Division**. Cody Tucker (85), who admits he's been struggling of late, still battled the forces to bring home the Bronze Medal and hold off Jacksonville Beach's hard charger Tucker Fletcher (86) by one stroke.

The **Rising Tour Girls 13-18 Division** would have another exciting finish as Alyzabeth Morgan continues her fine play in the division shooting a score of 86 to tie with Ashley Huffman for the lead. Mackenzie McCormack, with the exception of a few holes played well and contended for the championship, but a triple bogey at the par-5 17<sup>th</sup> would damper the momentum. Morgan and Huffman would head to the first tee to determine this week's champion. Huffman in the green side bunker in two would blast out to about 30 feet from the pin and sink the putt for par to win the hole and the championship. Huffman would again record another record low round. I believe this young lady is doing some serious practicing and is on a mission. Congratulations to all.

Our **Boys 10-12 Division** had two relatively new players in the tour battling it out with Fleming Islands Tyler Mawhinney. At the turn Mawhinney (37) would lead the trio of players by one stroke, but at the twelfth hole he would start a string six bogeys in this last seven holes while Longwood's, Garrett Ebbert and Neptune Beach's Jackson Runquist continued stringing pars. Between the two players (Ebbert and Runquist) 28 pars would recorded against four bogeys each. In the end, Ebbert and Runquist would tie for the lead at 76 each. They would head to the first tee where Ebbert would claim victory for the first time on the NFJG TOUR. Runquist would receive the Silver Medal and Mawhinney (78) would be presented the Bronze.

The **Foundation Elite Division** would find Bryson Hughes winning his second event in a row. Last week's winner at Eagle Harbor, Hughes would shoot a very cool 82 to outscore Fleming Island's Ryan Houck by one stroke. Alexa Fallis who is just pounding the ball down the fairway would take the Bronze Medal and would nearly drive three greens and record three birdies on her opening nine holes of play, posting a turning score of 38. She recorded her lowest round at 85 beating her previous low by five strokes, but had it not been for tough stretch of holes (13-15) costing her eight strokes she would have demolished the old low round. Good job Alexa!

This week Tavi Sport (43) would dominate the Foundation Rising Division claiming victory by six strokes over Cassius Winch (49). Jacksonville's Sofia Davila would have a good round with a score of 50 to win the Bronze

Once again a great job to all our players. All you can ever ask, is "did you give it your all?" and if you did you are a winner! Always focus on the positive and DO NOT DWELL on the negative.

Up next is the University of Florida Open and then the SCHOOLS TEAM CHALLENGE. Do you have your team together? Let's get registered, Deadline is APRIL 4<sup>th</sup> (next week). Then after that is the "Titleist Invitational". Who will receive the TOM STECKER AWARD this year?

See you on the links!

Jack Aschenbach, PGA