

Cimarrone Challenge

Cimarrone Golf Club

May 20, 2018

This week we headed back to the Cimarrone Golf Club for the “Cimarrone Challenge”. It was a testy day for sure with rain all around, but luckily the thunderstorms stayed away allowing us to get the event in.

As I told many who called to find out if we were going to cancel the event or not that we typically would not just cancel an event just for rain, unless the rain made the golf course unplayable.

As ALWAYS our main concern is player and spectator safety and the tournament committees evaluation was that we go ahead with the event because of the small possibility of T-storms and heavy rains. It turns out it was a good decision. This season, due to severe weather we’ve already had to cancel or postpone three events. We’ve been lucky over the past five years to only have to cancel one event due to weather conditions.

This week there was a lot going on in junior golf. USkids Golf was happening at Hidden Hills Golf Club, FSGA had the Match Play Qualifier with many of our junior players in the field (two via NFJGTour exemptions) and St. Johns County had there Middle School Golf Program Championships, so our field was shortened to just 41 players. None the less, our players hit the links with a little feel of a normal day in East Lothian, Scotland. As Steve Sirbaugh pointed out this would have been a great day in Scotland. I recall last July while in Scotland being the HAPPIEST I’ve ever been on the golf course playing in the rain, 60 degree weather and the winds blowing 30 mph. We’ve certainly got it made here in Florida. A little rain certainly can’t hurt, although it can be frustrating if not prepared properly.

I want to thank all the players and family members who took on the challenges of playing in the rain and following the players. Hopefully the kids took home a great learning experience. The question is did the players come prepared to play in an element they may play in many times throughout their golfing career. Being prepared is essential. Did we have rain gloves for better grip? Did we have extra towels, an umbrella, rainsuit and rain hat to stay dry and keep the equipment dry? Maybe extra socks and finally, did we adjust our game to the wet conditions with club selections and strategy? If so, you were most likely ready.

This week on TOUR Hunter Boahn returned to capture the **Boys 16-18 Division** Gold Medal with a fine score of 80. This was Boahn’s first when on TOUR.

In the **Elite Tour Boys 13-15 Division** Clay Tucker would fire a nice three over par round of 75 in sloppy conditions to nip Connor Holcroft by one stroke and Reed Lotter by two strokes.

In the ***Rising Tour Boys 13-15 Division*** Colton Swartz would continue his fine play and took home the championship with a very nice score of 85 over Jameson Adams (94) and Cody Tucker (94). Adams would take home the Silver Medal winning in a scorecard playoff.

In the ***Elite Tour Girls 13-18 Division*** Lacey Tucker won her fourth event of the season with an outstanding score of 78. Finishing second in the division was Mackenzie McCormack who tied with Elizabeth Kondal at 82 each. McCormack would win in a scorecard playoff to take the Silver Medal.

For their fine play Tucker and McCormack both earned a fully paid exemption into the ***“First Coast Women’s Amateur” Golf Tournament***

The ***Rising Tour Girls 13-18 Division*** had a champion this week with home field advantage. Playing in her first event of the season Bella Thiede fired an outstanding score of 83 to take a seven stroke victory over Thanya Arasu.

In the ***Foundation Rising Division*** Maxwell Morgan fresh off a great golf lesson from PGA Professional and NFJG Staffer Gary Murfitt would win his second event of the year with a very respectable score of 44. Morgan would outshine six times a champion Tavi Sport (46) by two strokes.

There was no Boys 10-12 or Foundation Elite Division contest.

Many thanks to Lynn and Jerry for hosting us once again. We’re always treated with class at Cimarrone!

Great job to all and keep practicing with a purpose!

See you on the links!

Jack Aschenbach, PGA