

2017 Plantation Bay Open

Tournament Story

December 10, 2017

Story by: Mike Charrie

While players are still likely thinking about all the twists and turns, and tricky situations at our last event at Hidden Hills, we continue the torture tour at the equally, if not even slightly tougher Prestwick Course at Plantation Bay in Ormond Beach. Rolling fairways, water everywhere, and many blind shots (sometimes even twice a hole), and speedy greens made this course a challenge for any and all competitors. For sure the players had their work cut out for them again this week. The course is not long, only 6500 from the tips, but the course rating was 71.7 and a slope of 144! This goes to show you a course does not have to be long to be tough. Added to the tough course condition was the temperature which seriously dropped over the last few days. The cold weather didn't lend any favoritism to playing either. However, the players and spectators were much more prepared this time versus last week. Everyone came bundled up with their beanies and gloves, and some spectators even had blankets! So who was able to battle the elements this week and warm things up with a win?

Boy's 16-18: This division was essentially a two-horse race the entire way (mostly because the other two competitors withdrew). Regardless, Hayden Zitzewitz (78) came away with his second win of the season, and his fifth top-5 finish in as many attempts! Alexander Whitmore (89) finished in second place for the second time this season, and for his third top-5 finish so far!

Girls 13-18: Lisa Colee (77) took the title in this division, and lengthened her streak to four straight trips to the awards podium with top two medal finishes. That's every event she's played this season! However, she didn't need a playoff this week to win as she bested the field by five strokes. Ainsley Mann (82) and Elizabeth Kondal (82) tied for second (scorecard playoff won by Mann), and tried their best to keep up, but in the end, fell short. Mann carded two birdies in her first event this season, while Kondal had her second top-5 and earned her first NFJG TOUR award of the season!

Elite Tour Boys 13-15: Kaleb Palm (74) comes out firing in his first event of the season, impressively carding two birdies in his first three holes in the near freezing temperatures in route to his first victory. Second place Nolan John (77) was on his heels all day playing the last sixteen holes in the same score as Palm, with the difference makers being the first two holes played. Andrew Riley (79) did his best to keep pace also with three birdies on the day, but double-bogeyed the 18th hole to finish in third and give John the solo second place finish.

Rising Tour Boys 13-15: Adam Vermut (85) was the only player in the division to card a birdie on this tough course, and took first place for his third victory, and his sixth straight top-5 of his impressive young season! Nicholas Farraye (92) and Thomas Cush (92) tied for their round and a scorecard playoff declared Farraye the Silver Medalist for his first award of the season. Cush would take the Bronze Medal and his third top-3 of the young season.

Boys 10-12: Jackson Klauk (76) and Gavin Fleming (78) battled it out all round long with each carding one birdie and three bogeys in route to a front nine 37. But it was the back nine that made the difference. While Fleming added two more birdies on the back, and both players having three bogeys, it was Klauk's lack of double-bogeys that kept him in the lead for the win. This was Klauk's first win, and fourth straight top-5. Emmet Kuhlenkamp (85) also threw out a birdie on the front like the others, and ended up in third place for his third straight top-10 this season.

Boy's 13-18 (Overall): This week the Elite Tour Boys 13-15 showed up and represented in full force for this division and dominated the leaderboard taking first, second and fourth (Kaleb Palm - 74, Nolan John - 77, and Andrew Riley - 79) with Hayden Zitzewitz (78) and Adam Vermut (85) being the only players not in the Elite Tour Boys 13-15 to crack the top ten overall. The rest of the top ten was filled out by Jack Barned (82), Jack Hardy (84), Chris Ostrow (86), Andrew Davis (87), and Campbell Kennedy (87).

Foundation Elite: The Elliott brothers had a strong showing in this division with Lucas Elliott (83) taking first place, and Mateo Elliott (87) finishing in third, while Alyzabeth Morgan (84) snuck in between the duo for a second place finish. Lucas Elliott now has two wins and a second place to his name and Mateo Elliott has a second and two third place finishes, in only three events for each! Morgan narrowly missed capturing her fourth win of the young season in this event, and only has five top five finishes.

Foundation Rising: In the 9-hole Foundation division, Tavi Sport (51) earned the back-to-back victory over Randy Cavanagh (55). Cavanagh ended up with his second straight runner-up finish on the season, while this was Sport's third victory!

Two deadlines are approaching this week. First the "Georgia Peach Open" being played at Laurel Island Links. Deadline is Tuesday at 8:00 PM. The temperatures look to be in the 70's for this one and tee times start at 9:00 am. This is the first time we will be going to this event, so let's go! LUNCH IS ON JACK (parents, and players)

Second is the "Holiday Team Championship" being played a Windy Harbor Golf Club.! You'll love this place. Deadline is this Thursday. There will be no exceptions after the security list has been submitted unless you can get yourself on the base. So, sign up TODAY!

FINALLY and MOST IMPORTANTLY and right around the corner is the "PONTE VEDRA INVITATIONAL" This event should be the most popular event of the year along with the "Titleist Invitational" Don't miss this one! Invite your friends from the FJT TOUR and other tours to attend this event which is being played on the "Ocean Course" and "Lagoon Course". Let's show them what Jacksonville Junior Golf is all about. Let's make it a great tradition.

We hope to see you on the Links!