



THE BATTLE AT NORTH HAMPTON

February 11, 2018

Happy FAT TUESDAY!

Yep that's right it's Mardi Gras time once again and a time for celebration. It's a time to try and forget all your worries and enjoy life while being safe. There is some great history behind this tradition. Here's a link for you if you're interested.

I'm reminded about this great celebration of life by a photo sent to me by Jason Ricks who took this photo of his son Chase Ricks and playing competitor Bryson Hughes walking down the cart path during play of "THE BATTLE AT NORTH HAMPTON" this past Sunday.

As the freezing temperatures continue at the Olympic Village, it was another great day on the course here in Florida with the temperatures in the low 80's, a little cloudy and breezy but great golfing weather none-the-less. Good to see the Olympic committee also cancels or postpones events for player safety, as we recently had to. Always better to be safe than sorry! Go USA!

This week 72 player's tee'd it up on one of the toughest and most demanding golf courses we play. The course itself is one of the best tests of golf around. Play this course well and I will guarantee you that you are a serious competitor in the game of golf. The course was in wonderful condition with greens on the slow side, but as I tell everyone this is an element of the game and you have to adjust, adapt and overcome if you want to win. All good players will. It's no different than wind, rain, wet conditions, hot or cold. It's a condition you must adapt to. The sooner one learns this the better you will be.

Many thanks to the PGA Professional Blaze Grinn and his professional staff for their fine service and support of our TOUR and junior in golf. It's Pros like Blaze who grow the game. Send him a note of thanks and thanks for doing so.

A Couple notes. If you haven't noticed, over the past few weeks we added a few standings on our results page, like the "Overall Results" of combined age divisions and a combined "tournament overall" so players could see how they stand amongst their peers and other age groups. The girls 13-18 Division has now been separated into "Rising and Elite Divisions". Now we have Boys 13-18 Overall, Girls 13-18 Overall and Tournament Overall. The Tournament Overall will soon have a points scale similar to that of the POY Points Standings. Points will be retroactive to the beginning of the year. There will be an award created for the "Overall Player of the Year" regardless of age division

OK! This week the **Elite Tour Boys 13-15 Division** led the entire field of players with the low round of 74. St. Augustine's Brody Stevenson fresh off waivers due to a past wrist injury bounced back with the low round of the day at 74. Stevenson shot himself a nice 37-37. To take home the NFJG TOUR Gold Medal. Fleming Island's Andrew Davis and Savannah's own Reed Lotter both tied at 77. Davis would win the scorecard playoff over Lotter to capture the Silver Medal and Lotter would take home the Bronze.

Charles Collings returned to the TOUR this week putting the peg in the ground in the **Boys 16-18 Division**. He too would shoot 74 on the day to tie with Stevenson in the overall, but would lose the overall in a scorecard play-off on his final six holes of play which include two bogeys and a double. The excitement for Collings started at the 10th hole where he carded a birdie three followed by an "EAGLE THREE" at the uphill par-5 12th hole. After a par at the 13th Collings and his fellow competitors would turn into the wind to battle the tough five finishing holes of the back nine. Their scores reflected it Hayden Zitzewitz would come to the award's podium once again receiving the Silver medal with a fine score of 75. Peyton Billings would start birdie, birdie for his round and would have three birdies in five holes. He would bring it home at 76 tied with Parker Miller. A scorecard play-off would reveal Billings and Miller would tie after 9-holes of play, tie after 6-holes of play, tie after 3-holes of play and tie on the final hole. A first on the NFJG TOUR. By rule the only tie breaker left is the "Toss of the coin". Heads was called and tails won. Miller would take home the Bronze, but both would earn the same POY points for their efforts.

Jacksonville's Jayden Williams also of the **Boys 16-18 Division** would have "one of those rounds" starting out with three bogeys in a row followed by an ugly "10" at the short par-5 6th hole. He would turn with a beast of a score at 47. Yikes! Come on Williams? That's just what he thought. With a little fury after a double at the 9th hole he drove the green at the par-4 10th and sank that putt for an "EAGLE TWO". William's would birdie three additional holes to put a big dent in that opening nine of 47 with a one under par 35 on his inward half. How's that for a comeback. Williams, you earn some Marti Gras beads for that comeback and an EAGLE AWARD. Great job!

In the **Rising Tour Boys 13-15 Division** a sick, but willing to forge forward Tucker Fletcher would earn his first NFJG TOUR Gold. Fletcher scored a respectable score of 91 on the demanding North Hampton tying with Ponte Vedra's Hill Flannigan. When the scores were all in and recorded the tied players were called to the first tee for the sudden death play-off, but only Fletcher could be found. He was declared the winner and received the Gold. Flannigan will receive the Silver and Enrique Trabal playing in his first event of the season would be awarded the Bronze.

In the **Girls 13-18 Division** Katherine Jakeway would once again lead the field with her third win in three events played. Jakeway's score of 76 was four shots ahead of Jacksonville's Lacey Tucker who earned the Silver Medal to add to her collection of medals on the year with two firsts and two runner-up awards. Three players tied at 82 apiece, Elizabeth Kondal, Beatrice Dietz, and Tylar Ann Whiting. Kondal would shoot 37 on the back to break the tie and claim the Bronze Medal.

In the Newly developed **Rising Tour Girls 13-18 Division** Mackenzie McCormick would play steady and take charge of the field firing a nice score of 41-40 total 81 to claim her first Gold Medal. The Silver Medal would be earned by Thanya Arasu of Jacksonville with a score of 93 and Bronze would go to Ponte Vedra's Ashlan Tresca (101).

In the **Boys 10-12 Division** Jacksonville's Gavin Fleming would play solid golf all day. He would birdie two holes on his way to a fantastic score of 77. Also firing a 77 from Jacksonville was Phillip Dunham. Dunham a five time medal winner and three times a champion had six birdies on his round including two trio of birdies. He would also have a trio of other scores to offset the magnificent string of birdies. Four players would tie for the Bronze Medal creating a quad scorecard play-off. Danny Erickson, Colton Swartz, Richard Hayden Ruth, and Henry Robards would all record scores of 83. Erickson would be declared the winner of the Bronze Medal. However, he would have to wait just a little while longer

while the leaders hit the links for a sudden-death play-off. Both Dunham and Fleming would bogey the first hole and move on to the second where Fleming would win with a par to secure the Gold Medal. Dunham would settle for the Silver.

The fast growing **Foundation Elite Division** would have the largest field of the day with 21 registered players. Fleming Islands Ryan Houck would birdie three holes on the day to post a winning score of 78. All year he would be in the fight for the Gold and finally, on one of the toughest courses and amongst the largest field his goal of Gold is achieved. Houck would nip five times a champion Alyzabeth Morgan by just one lone shot. Morgan from Orange Park would proudly wear the Silver for her outstanding play. Miles Russell from Jacksonville Beach would take home Bronze for his efforts for his first event on the NFJG TOUR.

The **Foundation Rising Division** would be the first to tee off this week and would hit the back nine. St. Augustine's Danielle Dailey would lead the field of four by seven shots and would be presented her first Gold on TOUR. Sady Campbell from Fernandina Beach would tie with Jacksonville's Aubrey Fellows for the second place spot with a score of 59. A scorecard playoff would reveal Campbell the Winner of the Silver Medal and Fellows the Bronze.

Next up is the Match Play Championship. I am surprised we don't have more players for this event with all that is at stake, but we hope you consider it next year.

Then on Saturday, February 24th is the rescheduled **Adult-Junior Championship** at the Hammock Beach Conservatory Course. Should be a good one.

See you on the links!

Jack Aschenbach, PGA