

# “The Timuquana Encounter”

Timuquana Country Club

July 23, 2018

Situated on the St. Johns River, Timuquana Country Club is most likely one of the prettiest views you will find of the river and city of Jacksonville. Arriving in the wee morning hours of darkness to prepare for the final NFJG TOUR Summer Tournament Series event the skyline was bright and well lit regardless of the cloud cover which tried to hide the city's beauty. As the sun yawned and stretched across the skies the spectacular view at day break dawn and across the river would start anyone's day off right. Got worries, just sit on the shoreline and take in those views and those worries may temporarily go away.

The “Timuquana Encounter” is another one of those great tournaments the NFJG TOUR puts on week after week. We are “BLESSED” to have such great support by our club members and our “Blue and Gold” waiving PGA Professionals. Clint Avret, Head Pro at Timuquana Country Club is one of the many outstanding leaders in waiving the brand of PGA of America and it's easy to see how PROUD he is to wear the PGA Logo. He and his team, like so many others grow the game with a passion for junior golf and the development for our future in golf. Blessed to know these guys! Say thanks in your own way and thanks for doing so.

Ninety-two players in the field this week for this last single day event of the season. Only one event remains and that is the “Web.com Junior Players Tour” TOUR Championship.

At the start of the “Timuquana Encounter” players were still competing to determine the “Summer Series Tournament Winners”. The results will soon be confirmed and those players will be announced. New this year, players continue to fight for the right to earn the first ever “Web.com TOP HONOR AWARD” for all two day Web.com Junior Players Tour events.

In addition, players were still piling up needed points for the most prestigious award, the “Player of the Year” award which accumulates all points together.

In the POY race, Hayden Zitzewitz of the Boys **16-18 Division** has sewn up this award with 10,900 points. The same holds true for Campbell Kennedy in the **Elite Tour Boys Division** with 15,325 points. However, the **Elite Tour Girls** still have four players fighting for the top spot with Marissa Cardenas only 100 points ahead of Tylar Ann Whiting at 10,725. Beatrice Dietz and Lisa Colee still have an outside chance.

In the **Rising Tour** Thomas Cush has just a slight lead over Matthew French and a larger lead over Cody Tucker, but it could be anyone's title based on the size of the field.

**Rising Tour Girls** – Alyzabeth Morgan needs just a little over 200 points to close out the race, But Thanya Arasu has an outside shot.

In the **Boys 10-12 Division** Phillip Dunham overwhelmed a very strong group of players with 15,250 points to take the crown.

The **Foundation Elite** is conquered by Cole Taylor with 4025 points and the **Foundation Rising** still has a battle between Tavi Sport and Maxwell Morgan.

In the **TOP HONOR** Award race Nolan Harper has a 400 point lead over Phillip Dunham in the **Boys 10-12 Division**. Campbell Kennedy has a 500 point lead over Lucas Slayden in the **Boys 13-18 Division** and Marissa Cardenas has closed out this award in the **Girls 13-18 Division** with 8100.

What a great day we had at Timuquana Country Club. The course regardless of all the rain that pounded the course over the last week was still in beautiful condition and a treat to play. This Donald Ross designed course has the respect of many great players, amateur and pros alike. Timuquana is the home to the "Underwood Cup Matches" each year where the Pros take on the Amateurs and the pins looked to have been set in the positions that of the final day of the matches. Tough and tucked near drop offs and edges. Needless to say our young scraping players had no fear and attacked at will hoping for the best. The par-4 9<sup>th</sup> hole had more balls on the practice putting green than on the 9<sup>th</sup> green if that describes how pins were placed. With the pin tucked in the back right, many ended up long and over the green.

Who's this firing an even par 72 under tough conditions? Yep, it was Adam Vermut firing an even par round to bring home the low round of the day to lead the **Elite Tour Boys Division** and overall event. Vermut carded three birdies and three bogeys on his way to the Gold Medal presentation.

Right behind Vermut was St. Augustine's Connor Holcroft having a very steady round. Holcroft turned at two over par and then throw up three birdies on his inward half, but would bogey the final hole to shot 73 and one stroke back of the leader. Holcroft, who has been working hard on his game just waiting for the payout and reward. I guess this may be the start of good things to come.

Charles Lonsdale fighting a bug would start off rough with three bogeys in a row, but would bounce back with two birdies on the back nine to fire a one under par 35 for the inward half and a total score of 75 to capture the Bronze Medal.

The **Boys 16-18 Division** would have three senior players among the field in Robert Bird, Jay Adams and Charles Collings. Bird visiting Timuquana members from Atlanta, Georgia would be the story of the day not just for his fine play, but for the fact that Jay Adams is headed to LaGrange College under scholarship to study and play on the golf team and wouldn't you know it visiting Robert Bird is also going to the same college to play golf. Is that a God Send or what? Talk about a small world. Bird with three birdies on the day would nip Adams by one stroke. Both boys playing together, hit it off well and my guess is that these two will have some pretty keen competitions throughout their college days at LaGrange and we wish them all the best. Ty Martin would shoot a nice three over par 75 and would tie Hayden Zitzewitz and Charles Collings and would win in a scorecard playoff.

A tear in the eyes can tell a thousand words. As you can imagine I and my staff create many relationships and bonds over the years as junior players go through the tour. I have ties to many and all of our kids have special meaning to us all. Two relationships I'm very proud of over the years are with Jay Adams and Charles Collings and family. Jay, I introduced to golf and the PGA Junior League back in 2011 while I was a Pro at Amelia National Country Club and then gave lessons to him for the next three years. Routinely meeting with family (Von and Becky). Charles and the family (Zane and Kathy) I met

through their passionate involvement with golf and the NFJG Foundation. Helping to raise funds and providing gifts for our online auctions and fundraisers. What struck me most was the polite gestures of Charles and his younger sister.

Charles made comment that he was unable to play in the TOUR Championship and that Timuquana would be his last event on the NFJG TOUR before heading off to Flagler College. As I shook his hand to give him my best wishes with Kathy (Charles Mom) standing at his side the tears rolled over in both their eyes and it was then that I realized nothing more needed to be said and what the NFJG TOUR and Foundation has meant to this family over the years. I'm sure to so many more who have moved on before as well. I always have said, "It's the family of golf" and I'm honored.

The **Elite Tour Girls** hailed a new champion this week. Fresh off the Rising Tour Girls trail is Apryl Parker who is making fellow players stand up and take notice. On one tough golf course Parker fired her best round of the season with a five over par 77 to take home the Elite Gold Medal. Parker would have three birdies on the day.

One Stroke back was Anika Richards and MacKenzie McCormack. Both players would shoot a score of 78 and tie for the runner up spot. A scorecard playoff would declare Richards the Runner up and McCormack the Bronze Medal holder.

In the **Rising Tour Girls** – Alyzabeth Morgan would be back on TOUR and back at it again. This young talent must still have room in the trophy case for a few more medals and trophies and she is hard pressed to fill those voids and to make her imprint on the NFJG TOUR. Morgan fired a nicely done 82 to claim the Gold Medal. Morgan would birdie the opening hole and that would prove to be very valuable in the end in a very tough contest of back and forth between the top three players.

Right behind Morgan would be fresh out of the Foundation Division Ms. Daisy Adams who was making an imprint of her own. Adams would post up a score of 83 for her low round on tour to take home the Silver Medal. Last week's Junior Amateur Champion Ashley Huffman would round out the medalist stand with a solid round of 85 and the Bronze Medal.

The **Rising Tour Boys** had a first time Champion in Jacksonville's Jackson Haines. Haines crushed the field of 18 with a season low 79 to claim his first Gold Medal. Haines round included two birdies and two double bogeys, plus four bogeys to give you an idea of what could have been even though this was a season best performance.

Ponte Vedra's Thomas Cush tied with fellow competitor Reese Tyrrell at 88. A scorecard playoff would reveal Cush the Silver Medal winner and Tyrrell the Bronze.

The **Boys 10-12 Division** continues to have the good battles between the top players in the division. This week brought out a very strong field with 18 players competing. Phillip Dunham and Cam Goldknopf continued their battle for the top spot. Early birdies would turn out to be the edge for Dunham who this week took a two stroke victory over Goldknopf. Dunham's three over par 75 included three birdies while Goldknopf who fired a 77 could only manage one during this round.

Richard Hayden Ruth looking for some of the medal stand fended off Tyler Mawhinney for the third spot by posting a score of 77 to win the Silver.

The **Foundation Rising Division** would return in mass as eight players registered for this week's event with six players competing. Danielle Dailey has been accumulating a collection of Silver Medals over the last few weeks and this week was pressing to bring home the Gold and that she did as she nipped out Brandon Fowler by two strokes thanks to a nice birdie two at the par-3 8<sup>th</sup> hole. Fowler would take the Silver Medal for his fine score of 47 and Preston Shields would claim the Bronze Medal.

The Foundation Elite Division would showcase a young up and comer n Alexander Stewart who would claim his second victory of the season with a nice score of 93. Emma Wells just two strokes back would take home her second Runner-up Medal for the season and Ponte Vedra's Jordan Barnett would earn her first NFJG TOUR Medal with a fine 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish with a score of 100

Great job to all our players for a fine performance and special congratulations to all our medal winners and good luck to all those players in the hunt for Player of the Year or the Top Honor Award.

Next up is the Web.com Junior Player Tour – “The TOUR Championship”. Overall winners will be added to the list of NFJG TOUR players who will play with future PGA TOUR Players at the Web.com TOUR Championship on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

See you on the links!

Sincerely,

Jack Aschenbach, PGA