



# Daily Divot

A Newsletter for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships

August 1, 2009



round 66-70—136. He is eight under par and is three strokes ahead of the rest of the field.

Tied for second are A.J. Crouch of Jacksonville, Florida, with 71-68—139 and Christian Rivera of Guayama, Puerto Rico, with 68-71—139. Chen-Lin Liu of Beaumont, California, enters the third round in fourth place with 71-71—142.

Four young golfers are tied for fifth place: Eduardo Castiello of Mexico (71-72—143); Adam Schenk of Vincennes, Indiana (68-75—143); Andy Schonbaum of Alta Gracia, Argentina (71-72—143); and Alvaro Vargas of Montevideo, Uruguay (73-70—143).

After two rounds, two golfers share the top spot in the girls 16-18 division. Chihiro Ikeda (72-72—144) of Calamba, Philippines, began the day in first place and was even for the day to stay atop the field. Patricia Garcia (73-71—144) of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, was 1-under for the day, the only golfer to shoot under par, boosting her into a first-place tie with Chihiro.

Two strokes back and tied for third place are Szuhan Chen of Beaumont, California (73-73—146) and Sasikarn On-lam of Nonthaburi, Thailand (73-73—146). In fifth place is Kelly Drack of Melbourne, Florida, with 74-73—147.

**Chihiro Ikeda of Calamba, Philippines, is tied for the lead in the girls 16-18 division, while Leandro Marelli of Casilda, Argentina, has a 3-stroke lead in the boys 16-18 division.**

## Two Rounds Down, Two to Go

The leaders in the boys and girls 16-18 divisions held steady yesterday during the second round at the Optimist.

Leandro Marelli of Casilda, Argentina, shot a two-under 70 for the day to maintain his first-round lead in the boys 16-18 division. Marelli has a two-

## Lucky Number Six

*By Jim Morris, Reporter on Location at PGA*

Hole number 6 (a par 5) on the Champion course is seeing some spectacular play this week. Following the double eagle on Thursday by another junior golfer, Julio Palau of Garza Garcia, Mexico, scored a birdie. Not so unusual except that his drive found the water hazard. Julio then took off his shoes, waded in and hit the barely submerged ball out 30 yards into the fairway. His next shot landed on the green, and from there he sank a curvy 20-foot putt for a 4!



Julio Palau

## A Buick Connection

Longtime Optimist volunteer John Thiel keeps a detailed list of all golfers passing through the West Missouri district on their way to the Optimist Championships. He was happy to report yesterday that golfer Michael Letzig participated in the Optimist in 1996 and 1997.

Letzig is one of the leaders at this week's Buick Open. He enters the weekend in second place and two strokes behind leader John Senden.

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## Contestants Impress the Crowds

The finalists in last night's Palmer Golf Long-Drive Contest Finals showed up ready to put on a good show. In the girls division, Lauren Smith started off the night with a 259-yard shot, good enough for third place. Ally McDonald one-upped her with a 260-yard drive. But the evening belonged to Maria Piccio, who drove the ball 264 yards for the championship.

In the boys division, Julio Palau went 292 yards to secure third place. Alex Belmont stepped it up and took second place with 302 yards. But it was Hunter McCarroll's event. Filled with Canadian pride, he sent long-drive contest staff chasing after a drive that measured 320 yards, more than enough for the championship!

Congratulations to the winners!

## Results from the Putting Green

Golfers had a chance to relax and have some fun on the main putting green last night during the "Glow Ball" Putting Contest. A few golfers made some really good putts while they were at it. Congratulations to the big winners of the night!

### Girls 16-18

1. Lavery Kumar — 16
2. Chelsea Bretcher — 17\*
3. Allison Forristal — 17\*

### Boys 16-18

1. Wyndham Clark — 13
2. Mike Amole — 14
3. Andy Schonbaum — 15

\*Won in a tie breaker

## Dude, It's Dive-In Movie Night

Tonight is Dive-In Movie Night, and while the movie will be about time travel, it will not be *Land of the Lost*, which was originally scheduled. Instead, *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure* returns to the big screen (at least, the big screen by the pool) in honor of the movie's 20th anniversary. To get into movie mode, all golfers are encouraged to use the following words as much as possible throughout the day today: "dude," "totally," "excellent" and "dude" a few more times.

The movie starts at 8:30. Get there before they run out of popcorn!

### Boom Boom Wow

The loud boom everyone heard yesterday morning was in fact a sonic boom as the shuttle returned.



The top finishers in the Palmer Golf Long-Drive Contest are (from left) Julio Palau, Alex Belmont, Hunter McCarroll, Maria Piccio, Ally McDonald and Lauren Smith.

## Get Educated This Evening

Don't miss the College Golf Experience Seminar tonight at 7:30 in Bella Lago. Shane Reiser of the IMG Academies' David Leadbetter Golf Academy will go over with golfers and parents what they should be doing now to help their collegiate golf career. Don't miss out on this great opportunity — your future may depend on it!

Inaugural

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Parent-Child  
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