



Daily Divot

A Newsletter for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships

August 2, 2009

On to the Championships

With just one round to go, do the leaders have what it takes to claim an Optimist championship title?

In the girls division, Chihiro Ikeda of Calamba, Philippines, has established a 6-stroke lead for herself, thanks to a 6-under 66 on the Haig yesterday. She found what she was looking for during the third round and starts the day with a three-round 72-72-66—210.

Patricia Garcia of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, was even for the day, and moved into sole possession of second place with one round remaining. She enters the day with 73-71-72—216.

Four golfers are bunched up in a tie for third place and the results are anyone's guess. Tied for third at the beginning of the day are Nicole Agnello (73-75-73—221) of Longwood, Florida; Szuhan Chen (73-73-75—221) of Beaumont, California; Sasikarn On-lam (73-73-75—221) of Nonthaburi, Thailand; and Maria Piccio (75-73-73—221) of Philippines.

In the boys 16-18 division, Leandro Marelli of Casilda, Argentina, maintains his lead, but will the 2-stroke safety net be enough on the Champion today? Leandro has held the top spot throughout the tournament and has a three-round total of 66-70-72—208.

Three golfers enter the day tied for fifth. They are (from top) Indiana's Adam Schenk, Argentina's Andy Schonbaum and Uruguay's Alvaro Vargas.

Pushing his way forward is A.J. Crouch of Jacksonville, Florida. A.J. went 1-under for the day and enters the final round in second place with 71-68-71—210.

Bobby Baysden of Ernul, North Carolina, and Byoung Jun Chung of Rosario, Argentina, had a great day on the Palmer and moved into a tie for third place. Bobby shot a 68 in the third round and has a three-day total of 75-71-68—214. Byoung had a 69 in the third round, with a total of 71-74-69—214.

Three golfers are just one stroke out of third place: Adam Schenk (68-75-72—215) of Vincennes, Indiana; Andy Schonbaum (71-72-72—215) of Argentina; and Alvaro Vargas (73-70-72—215) of Uruguay.

Seen on the Course, Heard in the Hallways

A **sprinkler leak** on the Palmer Friday night caused a small river on #9 yesterday. After workers spent two hours squeegeeing, only two golf balls landed in the area ... The piano player is **Mark Maynard** of Medina, Ohio. He seems to be able to listen to a song and play it by ear. Word has it that he's been giving lessons to fellow golfers. And he's been attracting quite an audience, too ... The **man and the falcon** that were seen roaming around the pool area of PGA yesterday show up once in a while to frighten away the black birds. No birds get hurt in the process, but the falcon does wear some pretty stylish head gear ... Speaking of stylish, feel free to compliment Tournament Director Bob Patterson on his **Mickey Mouse patchwork golf shorts** if you see him. He was sporting them at dinner last night ... While there have been more than a few eagles on the Champion this week and a few on the Palmer

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Being a Spectator is Exhausting

A little McCracken takes a nap at the edge of the fairway on Champion #8 while golfer Andrew McCracken makes his way through a couple of holes. This is, of course, near the water where the alligators occasionally sunbathe.

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as well, there has been only one eagle in the girls division. **Sheri Brewer** of Herndon, Virginia, had a 2 yesterday on the par-4 #14 of the Haig. If you want more statistics about what's been happening on the courses this week, check out the stats section of the GolfNet Live Scoring site. There are links from the leaderboards at www.optimist.org/golf.

Taking Notes on the Course

A number of coaches have been walking the courses at this week's tournament and observing both the girls and boys. Visitors include:

Steve Bailey, Northwestern
 Carrie Cole, University of Texas—San Antonio
 Tim Crooks, Campbell University
 Andrew DiBitetto, UNC—Charlotte
 Jan Dowling, University of Florida
 Kyle Frakes, Rollins College
 Tom Hanna, University of Maryland
 Therese Hession, Ohio State University
 Floyd Kerr, Stetson University
 Marci Kornegay, University of South Florida
 Kevin March, Nova Southeastern University
 Christie Martens, Iowa State
 Leigh Ann Mills, Florida State University
 Shane Reiser, David Leadbetter Golf Academy
 Matthew Schneider, David Leadbetter Golf Academy
 Carrie Sordel, University of Central Florida
 Jimmy Stobs, Barry University
 Jill Trujillo, University of New Mexico

Save the Dates

Optimist Golf would love to see all eligible golfers back here next year, as well as at other upcoming tournaments.

Next year's Optimist International Junior Golf Championships will take place July 22 through August 1. This fall's Tournament of Champions will be November 7-8, 2009. And the inaugural Optimist Golf Parent-Child Classic is scheduled for December 5-6, 2009. We hope to see you there!

Recognize Your Fellow Golfers

After your round today, please stick around for the Awards Ceremony, which will begin at approximately 2:30 p.m. in Bella Lago. Prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place, last-day low round and the winners in each category of the consolation tournament.

A Memorable Golf Experience

Congratulations to **Isabella Loza** of Bucaramanga, Colombia, and **Alex Hicks** of Cape May Court House, New Jersey. They were the winners in last night's drawing for a one-week stay at the IMG Academies' David Leadbetter Golf Academy. Their names were pulled at the College Golf Experience Seminar last night.

Inaugural
Optimist Golf
Parent-Child
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December 5-6, 2009
 Disney's Lake Buena Vista Golf Course
 Walt Disney World®, Florida





Optimist Junior Golf announces a fun new event for two-player teams consisting of a junior golfer and his or her parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle. Visit www.optimist.org or e-mail golf@optimist.org.

Disney's Lake Buena Vista Golf Course ©Disney