



Daily Divot

A Newsletter for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships

July 23, 2010

Welcome and Congratulations from the Tournament Chairman



Dear Golfers,

Welcome to the 2010 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships! Every year, I look forward to late July, because it means that we have the chance to see so much golfing talent together in one big event! This year's fields are full of impressive golfers — we want to welcome back returning players and offer up a big hello to all of our first-time competitors. We're

Wes Norris, Chairman

glad to have you here, and we hope this will be one of the most exciting and competitive Optimist championships to date. Over the next several days, you will have the opportunity to compete with some of the world's top junior golfing talent. Golfers from more than 30 nations are here this year. And the great thing about golf is that regardless of language, culture or background, the sport really brings all of us together.

All of you have accomplished a great deal on the course to get to where you are today, and you should be proud of that. Many of you will even have the chance to make great achievements in the golfing world.

But for right now I would like to see all of you go out there and give it your best and have fun while you're at it! Please enjoy your stay in Palm Beach Gardens, have fun at this beautiful resort, take advantage of getting to know your fellow golfers and have a great week!

Wes Norris, Chairman

Save a Stroke or Two

With Round 1 starting bright and early tomorrow, now is the time to brush up on some of those rules. And USGA is here to help! USGA certified rules officials will be on the Main Putting Green at 7 p.m. today for a "Rules of Golf Clinic." They will go over some common situations you may come across on the golf course this week. And you never know, the information you learn there could save you an important penalty stroke down the road. Everyone is welcome to attend, and the clinic will be finished before the Player Orientation begins.

An Hour of Your Time

If you're not in the PGA Grand Ballroom at 8:30 tonight, chances are you're in the wrong place. The mandatory Player Orientation and Opening Ceremony begins at 8:30. Don't miss out on coverage of the local course rules, the dos and don'ts of the tournament and the ever-popular parade of flags.

Listening ears are required! The event runs for just one hour, with plenty of time afterward for some socializing or a little practice on the putting green before curfew!

Just Look at That Drive!

Are you feeling like a power hitter today? The Palmer Golf Long-Drive Contest Preliminaries will take place on the course today, so bring your "A" game and your strength with you to the designated holes on the Champion, Haig, Palmer and Squire (look for signage near the tee box). The top performers in each age division will be announced at tonight's Opening Ceremony.

The finalists will show off their stuff in front of the crowd at 7 p.m. Sunday on Champion #10. Be sure to catch the show!

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In-House Experts

Just because no one can drag these golfers off the practice green doesn't mean they have no interests outside of golf. Here are a few interests that keep this week's golfers busy when they leave the course.

Goju-Ryu karate – **Andrew Walker** (boys 10-11) of Battle Creek, Michigan, is a green belt.

Netball – **Natasha Carlsson** (girls 12-13) of South Africa

Origami – **Radi Sauro** (girls 14-15) of Lake Worth, Florida – give her a request and we bet she could live up to the challenge!

World War II – **Kyle Spencer** (boys 10-11) of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. Go ahead! Ask him a question and try to stump him!

Ripstick – **Sabrina and Sydney Hoskins** (both girls 10-11) of Orlando, Florida

Wrestling – **Coby Welch** (boys 12-13) of Highlands Ranch, Colorado. No wrestling in PGA's halls, please!

Badminton – **Siranon Shoomee** (girls 12-13) of Sanford, North Carolina

Freestyle snowboarding – **Tyler Quast** (boys 14-15) of Yorba Linda, California

Building model cars – **Landon Smith** (boys 14-15) of Evansville, Indiana

Tae kwon do – **Randy Urso** (boys 14-15) of Aurora, Colorado, is a second-degree black belt.

Bonsai – **Mikayla Baer** (girls 14-15) of Elmore, Ohio, is a member of the Toledo Bonsai Club.

Curling – **Félix Asselin** (boys 14-15) of Ile Bizard, Quebec

Ballet – **Daniela Tovar** (girls 10-11) of Colombia

Apple computers – **Mary Janiga** (girls 12-13) of Wellington, Florida

Viola – **Dean Sakata** (boys 14-15) of Diamond Bar, California, plays in one of the top middle school orchestras in the U.S.!

Green technologies and science fiction – **Jeffrey Inouye-Wong** (boys 12-13) of Roseville, California

Following in the "spike marks" of his dad – **Jeremy Ball** (boys 14-15) of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

Eating – **Jeffrey Lang** (boys 14-15) of Lexington, Massachusetts ... Jeffrey notes that he has siblings who are triplets, so every meal could very well be a race!

Sleeping – **Tsz Fung Tony Mak** (boys 14-15) of Richmond, British Columbia (there are probably a few other golfers who specialize in this category as well)

Xbox – Too many experts to list!

Parents with a Plan

A couple of families here this week are jumping between golf courses to watch not one, not two but three different golfers! The following golfing trios will be keeping their fans very busy:

***Matthew and Wesley Simmons** (in the same division, no less!) and older sister **Tara Simmons** of Goldsboro, North Carolina

***Sabrina and Sydney Hoskins** (also in the same division, for added sibling rivalry) and older brother **Zachary Hoskins** of Orlando, Florida

Good luck to the busy fan clubs!

6th Annual Optimist International Tournament of Champions

October 30-31, 2010 • Disney's Palm Golf Course • Walt Disney World, Florida

An invitational event for boys and girls ages 14-18 played on the same course as the PGA TOUR's Children's Miracle Network Classic.



Winners of the 2009 Tournament of Champions (left to right), Nicole Quinn (Girls 14-18), Clancy Waugh (Boys 14-15) and Jason Roets (Boys 16-18).