



# Daily Divot

A Newsletter for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships

July 24, 2009

## A Big Hello from the 2009 Tournament Chairman

Dear Golfers,

Welcome to the 2009 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships! This is our favorite time of year, because it gives us the chance to see so much golfing talent come together for one big championship event! The fields are full of impressive golfers, 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 all over the world have come together this year with one important point in common – the love of golf!

All of you have accomplished a great deal on the course to get

to where you are today, and you should be quite proud of that. Many of you will even have the chance to make major strides 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, take advantage of getting to know your fellow golfers and have a great week!

Wes Norris, Chairman



Wes Norris, Chairman

## Places to Be

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.

The event runs for just one hour and will let out in plenty of time for a little practice on the putting green before curfew!

Done practicing for the day? Come over to the Game Room and Lounge in Canterbury. The room opens at 4 p.m. today and every day throughout the tournament. Stop by and check it out!

## Every Yard Counts!

Are you feeling like a power hitter today? Don't forget to stop by the Champion Range before or after your practice round to compete in the Palmer Golf Long-Drive Contest Preliminaries. Give it your best and try to qualify to move on to the finals. The preliminaries will be from 9-11 a.m. and 5-7 p.m. on the range.

The top performers in each age division will be announced at tonight's Opening Ceremony (just one more reason to attend!). The finalists will show off their stuff in front of the crowd at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

We'll see you on the Champion Range!

## 2009 Sponsors and Partners

PGA National Resort and Spa • Arnold Palmer Golf Management • Century Golf Partners  
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## Past Champions: On Site or In Mind



Allisen Corpuz in 2008

One of last year's Optimist champions has returned to compete in the tournament this week. Allisen Corpuz of Honolulu, Hawaii, won the girls 10-11 division last year and is moving up to the girls 12-13 division this year.

Optimist Junior Golf also tries to keep tabs on past Optimist champions and other competitors who have gone on to make noteworthy accomplishments in golf.

Two competitors this week recently mentioned how meeting up with some former Optimist golfers has motivated them to set big goals for themselves.

When Marcos Montenegro (boys 10-11) of Argentina was 8, he won the National Junior Championship in Argentina. That same year Victoria Tanco (Optimist champion in her age group in 2005 and 2006) won her age division at the same tournament. They even had their picture taken together, and Marcos has dreamed of being a great golfer ever since.

Evan DeRoche (boys 12-13) of Key West, Florida, had a similar experience, this time with Alexis Thompson (multiple-time Optimist competitor). The first tournament DeRoche ever entered was the 2002 U.S. Kids World Championship Qualifier when he was just 6. He ended up winning the boys 6 and under division. The winner of the girls 8 and under division was Alexis. DeRoche says there is plenty of room for him to improve his game, but he knows from her example that young golfers have no limits to what they can accomplish.

**Reminder:** Tomorrow night is the District Winner Banquet presented by The GolfRing, a special dinner for golfers who won their District qualifier this year.

## Golf for a Good Cause

If you don't know it yet, you'll figure it out soon enough – Optimist volunteers love helping people, especially kids! That's how this tournament started many years ago. What you might not know is that there are junior golfers here this week who have been doing some pretty cool things for other people. Below are just a couple of efforts keeping golfers busy.

Each year Kyle Austin (boys 12-13) of Mebane, North Carolina, helps his parents organize a parent-child charity golf tournament to raise money for people in their community who have trouble paying their heating bills in the winter. They just finished up a very successful sixth annual Heat from the Heart Parent-Child Golf Tournament.

Yuvish Singh (boys 12-13) of Brampton, Ontario, is the founder of the Birdies for the Children Foundation. For every birdie he makes on tour, he donates \$20 to UNICEF. For each eagle, he donates \$50. He has raised more than \$11,000 so far. More information is available on Yuvish's website at [www.birdiesforthechildren.com](http://www.birdiesforthechildren.com).

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**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](http://www.optimist.org) or e-mail [golf@optimist.org](mailto:golf@optimist.org).

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