



Daily Divot

A Newsletter for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships

July 25, 2009

Ohio Volunteers in the Spotlight

At last night's Opening Ceremony, Dan and Pat Neer were honored with the first-ever John Reel Service to Junior Golf Award.

"We were flabbergasted. We were floored," Pat says. Pat says that when Tournament Director Bob Patterson started talking about the award, she thought it was a neat thing to do for volunteers. Little did she know Bob was actually talking about her and her husband. They didn't even notice their photo on the big screen.

The Neers, from Centerville, Ohio, have been married for almost 51 years, and while they haven't been volunteering with Optimist Junior Golf quite that long, they have put in a few years. Dan and Pat are well known to the junior



Dan and Pat Neer have been volunteering with Optimist Junior Golf for years and are celebrating their 10th year at this event.

See "Service to Golf" on page 2

Introducing the 2009 Optimist Junior Golfers:

Each year many of the Optimist junior golfers share interesting facts about themselves. Some are about golf, some are totally unrelated and some are just plain funny. Here are a few to help everyone know the playing fields a little better.

Another Long-Drive Competition

Who has dibs on Chelso Barrett of Keene, New Hampshire, getting into this week's long-drive finals? Chelso (boys 14-15) won the 12-year-old division of the Cal Ripken New England Regional Championships Home Run Derby in 2007. His grand total: 13 homers!

Look Out for Those Gators

Patrick Sanchez (boys 14-15) of Mexico was once bitten by a ferocious rabbit during a round of golf. Does Patrick know about the wildlife at PGA?

Grandma MacGyver

A number of golfers got their start at a young age when their parents cut down

clubs for them. But for Sean Friel (boys 14-15) of Rochester Hills, Michigan, the club creation process went a step further. When he was 3, Sean's grandmother made his first club using a cut-down broom handle, plastic soda bottle and lots of duct tape.

Show Those Boys!

Sarah White (girls 12-13) of Caledonia, Michigan, is the goalie on an all-boys (sort of) traveling hockey team. She was named the 2009 MVP of the Chicago Showdown hockey tournament (once again, all boys except for Sarah).

All Day, Every Day

Sam Pollock's local course knows exactly

when to open each day and close each night. This boys 14-15 golfer from Terre Haute, Indiana, loves to play so much that he is there when they unlock the doors each morning and bids them good-night as they lock the doors each night.

Like Father, Like Son

Syouta Wakisaka's dad played in the Optimist Junior World Tournament when the tournament was in San Diego in 1979. Syouta, from Laguna Niguel, California, is competing in the boys 10-11 division.

Quality Time

Patrick Bailey (boys 14-15) of Houston,

See "Fun Facts" on page 2

2009 Sponsors and Partners

PGA National Resort and Spa • Arnold Palmer Golf Management • Century Golf Partners
David Leadbetter Golf Academy • Enterprise Rent-a-Car • The GolfRing
Innovative Multimedia Inc. • Palm Beach County, Florida
Palm Beach County Sports Commission • Prize Possessions • SEI Communications LLC

“Service to Golf” from page 1

golfers who come through the Ohio District tournaments and they’ve put in many hours at this international event each year since 2000.

Pat helps her fellow volunteers in the volunteer office, making sure they have all of their equipment, get where they need to be and stay well fed. Dan is head marshal on one of the courses and keeps his eyes and ears open to keep everything in order.

After so many years, the Neers have plenty of good advice for the golfers. “I always tell the golfers from Ohio to enjoy each day down here,” Pat says. “They are already champs and now is the chance to interact with golfers from all over the world.”

“Fun Facts” from page 1

Texas, spends time with his grandfather after every round of golf. Every round! They go over each hole, talk about how Patrick played it and trade golf stories back and forth.

How Low Can You Go?

Boys 14-15 competitor Victor Wiggins of Gastonia, North Carolina, shot a low-round 66 for the first and third rounds of the 2009 Future Masters. Victor has also discovered the secret to winning district Optimist qualifiers. He has won the South Carolina qualifier twice and the North Carolina West qualifier twice in the past four years.

A Boy Named Bubba

If you run across Dillon Woods of Jacksonville, Florida, he may introduce himself to you as Bubba. This boys 14-15 participant’s nickname is self-acquired. Growing up, his grandmother told him she wished she had a grandson named Bubba. In class on the first day of sixth grade, Dillon’s teacher asked if anyone in the room had a nickname they preferred. He raised his hand, said “Bubba” and his grandmother got her wish!

Try to Keep Your Feet on the Ground

In addition to not swinging clubs indoors and refraining from putting in the hallways of the hotel, here’s another no-no: pole vaulting in the lobby. Hopefully Rachel Welker (girls 14-15) of Terre Haute, Indiana, kept the equipment for her other sports at home. She competes in the high jump and pole vault for her high school track team.

Speed Racer

When Ryan Heck (boys 14-15) was younger, he became interested in speed rope jumping. This Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, golfer jumped 54 times in 10 seconds to take second place in his age group of the World Championship. The championship was in Bloomer, Wisconsin, jump rope capital of the world. Who knew?

Long-Drive Update

If you weren’t able to compete in the Palmer Golf Long-Drive Contest Preliminaries before the ominous weather headed toward PGA yesterday, you still have an opportunity! After your round today, grab your driver and head over to the Champion Range. The range will be open for the prelims from 1 to 4 p.m.

Night at the Dive-In

Grab your swim suit and head to the pool tonight for Dive-In Movie night! Ben Stiller and friends will spend a “Night at the Museum.” The fun starts at 8:30 (or whenever it gets dark). Get there before the popcorn disappears!

Adult Tournament Results

Congratulations to the winners of the adult scramble yesterday!

1st Place

Daniel Mobley
Jimmy Mobley
David Lancaster
Wes Lancaster

2nd Place

Craig Crump
Tyler Crump

3rd Place

Graeme Gordon
Mark Wetterich
David Wetterich
Matthew Wetterich

Inaugural
Optimist Golf
Parent-Child
Classic



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