



Daily Divot

A Newsletter for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships

July 29, 2009

A Big Welcome to All Golfers, Their Families and Guests



Wes Norris, 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.

The younger golfers played some incredible rounds of golf over the weekend, and we can't wait to see what all of you have in store this week.

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

One Hour of Your Time

The Optimist Golf Program realizes that the golfers this week have rounds to visualize, putting to practice, sleep to catch up on (and maybe a pool and game room to check out), but all golfers are required to set these things to the side for just one hour tonight for the mandatory Opening Ceremony and Player Orientation. After all, if you don't know the local course rules and understand the dos and don'ts of the tournament, how will you ever be able to visualize your name at the top of the leaderboard?

The orientation (once again, mandatory) begins at 8:30 p.m. in the PGA Grand Ballroom.

A Familiar Face

Optimist volunteer Pat Warfel's smiling face can be seen throughout the tournament, inside and out. Chances are, the golfers met her in the tournament office during registration. And for the boys on the Palmer, she will greet them in her shuttle between #5 and #6 and coming back between #14 and #15 during each round. Pat has been coming to the tournament for nine years and feels right at home. She even claims that tunnel on the Palmer as her very own!



Longtime volunteer Pat Warfel

Pat, of Elkhart, Indiana, clearly has fun while working hard each year. And the golfers from the Indiana North District may know that she works just as hard for the tournament at home (11 dedicated years and counting).

"I believe in the program and I enjoy the golfers," Pat says. "They are a delight to be around, and I've made a lot of friends throughout the years."

If you see Pat on the golf course this week, be sure to tell her thanks while she is shuttling you around!

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This Week's Playing Fields: What Everyone Should Know

Players are encouraged to fill out their media questionnaires so the tournament knows who should be notified about their accomplishments. From time to time, the tournament also uses some of this information for its entertainment value. Here are a few interesting, funny or slightly amazing tidbits about the golfers here this week.

Despite the Odds

A couple of golfers in the boys division seem either prone to disaster or incredibly lucky. You decide. During the Boda Memorial Golf Tournament, **Robbie Donahoe** of Canton, Massachusetts, was playing with poison ivy in his eyes. It must have kept his game in check, because he shot a 3-under 69 to win the tournament. And then there is **Cody Hernandez** of El Paso, Texas. Our on-site paramedic should probably be warned about this guy. He's had two concussions in his life, the most recent at a golf tournament when he went through a window (no further details were provided about how this happened). However, he walked out of the hospital at 3:30 in the afternoon, headed back to the tournament and won.

Golf for the Fun of It

At the age of 7, **Morgan Lamberson's** first golf outing involved doing cartwheels down the fairway. With this, her fate was sealed and she decided golf was really fun! This golfer from Marshall, Missouri, began competing in tournaments just two years later. The main question: will we see her doing cartwheels down the Haig fairway this week?

But Seriously ...

The junior golfers competing this week really have had some incredible opportunities. For example:

Dominic Di Vito of Gresham, Oregon, played at Bandon Dunes with his high school varsity golf team. In a practice round during the tournament, he had a hole in one on #5!

Shane Stewart of Dublin, Ohio, qualified for the sectional round of the U.S. Open and was the youngest player in the field at 17.

Courtney Boe of Bluffton, South Carolina, was selected to represent the United States in the North America Cup earlier this month.

Just four years after taking up the game, **Dillon Watkins** of Newark, Texas, is on his way to Texas Wesleyan University on a four-year dual scholarship (golf and academic).

Mary Larsh of Edmond, Oklahoma, has played the Old Course at St. Andrews three times with her father.

Facundo Garcia Masjoan of Argentina knows he is fortunate to be a member of the Cordoba Golf Club, home of one of the most important tournaments in Argentina. Eduardo Romero and Angel Cabrera are also members of this club, where they grew up and developed as golfers. Facundo is also a member of the team that won the National Interclubs Championship in 2007 and 2008.

Change of Plans

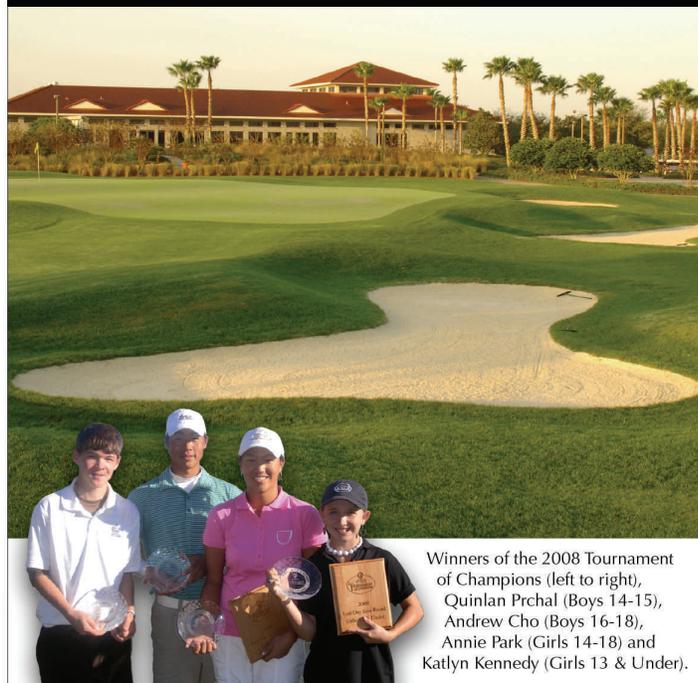
As they say, you live and learn. Due to some technical problems (aka stormy weather) every time the preliminaries were planned during last week's phase of the tournament, this week's Palmer Golf Long-Drive Contest Preliminaries will go back to the way they have been done in past years. If this is your first time at the Optimist, or you just can't remember what happened last year, keep reading.

During your practice round today, each course will have one hole designated for the preliminaries. The finals will still take place at 7 p.m. Friday on Champion #10, and they promise to be quite the event.

5th Annual Optimist International Tournament of Champions

November 7-8, 2009 • Orange County National Golf Center & Lodge (Winter Garden, Florida)

An invitational event for boys and girls ages 14-18 played on the same course as the 2010 PGA TOUR Q-School Finals.



Winners of the 2008 Tournament of Champions (left to right), Quinlan Prchal (Boys 14-15), Andrew Cho (Boys 16-18), Annie Park (Girls 14-18) and Katlyn Kennedy (Girls 13 & Under).