



Daily Divot

A Newsletter for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships

Saturday, July 21, 2012

Hundreds of Golfers, Hundreds of Stories

Here are some of the interesting and amusing stories that go along with this year's talented playing fields.

Hole in One — **John Driscoll III** (boys 10-11) of Carmel, IN, had his first hole in one during a practice round for the Optimist International qualifier, using a 9 iron from 122 yards.

An Early Start — **Aaron Kuznik** (boys 10-11) of Brooklyn Park, MN, has been playing in tournaments since he was 6 years old and started swinging a plastic club at the age of 3!

Keep Practicing — **Caroline Jordaan** (girls 10-12) of Cherry Hills Village, Colorado, hits golf balls into a net in her basement for four months out of the year when there is snow on the ground!

Grace St. Germain (girls 13-14) of Orleans, Ontario has grandparents that ran the Junior Program at Hylands Golf Club. She started practicing in their garage by hitting balls into a holiday wreath they had hanging in storage.

Round One Kicks Off

Good luck to all the golfers during the tournament!

Stay tuned to this newsletter for fun facts about junior golfers and the week's events.



Check Out the Photos

Chip Shots Photography and Optimist staff will be taking photos throughout the week. A link to the Facebook photo gallery can be found at www.optimist.org/golf.

Golf is a Family Affair — **Jessica Hahn** (girls 10-12) of Canton, Ohio went out in the golf cart with her grandmother starting at the age of 2 and had a great time picking up different colored tees.

Good Times — **Lauren Thibodeau** (girls 10-12) of Hampstead, NH is the two-time New Hampshire Girls Champion at 12 years old and shot even par (73) to defend and win the title for the second time on July 12, 2012. The division is 11-17 year olds. She is the youngest in New Hampshire history to win and also to be a two-time champion.

Having the Right Kind of Friends — **Lizzie Win** and her family of Sylvania, OH (girls 13-14) house Brittany Lincicome every summer for the LPGA Jamie Farr Toledo Classic. She has attended the 2009 Solheim Cup in Aurora, Illinois and in 2011 at Killeen Castle in Ireland to cheer for Brittany and Team USA and the Women's US Open in 2011 to follow Brittany.

Family Time



Opening Ceremonies Get the Tournament off to a Great Start



Last night, Optimist golfers and their families were officially welcomed to the 2012 tournament. The event kicked off with a flag procession led by bagpipers.

Will Davenport, the 2011 champion of the 16-18 Boys division made a presentation about his experience as a junior golfer and how the tournament made an impact on his life.



Rules of conduct and play were also reviewed by USGA officials. Health concerns were also discussed and players were encouraged to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water.

The Optimist International Junior Golf Committee encouraged everyone to have fun and enjoy themselves during their time at the tournament.

And the Finalists are ...

The following golfers will compete in the Palmer Golf Long-Drive Contest Finals on Sunday night.

Boys 10-11:

Tomas Acotto 222 yds
Nattapol Udomrat 220 yds
John Driscoll III 212 yds

Girls 10-12:

Ela Belen Anacona 223 yds
Jessica Hahn 222 yds
Isabella Cardenas 220 yds

Boys 12-13:

Kyle Vance 247 yds
Walker Brooks 243 yds
Tyler Zhang 242 yds

Girls 13-14:

Annika Gino 220 yds
Kristin Heap 209 yds
Grace St Germain 208 yds

Boys 14-15:

Donny Kinnaman 269 yds
Noah Henderson 265 yds
Simon Maury 260 yds

Coming Up Tonight:

District Winner Banquet

The District Winner Banquet presented by Golfsmith is today at 6:30 in the PGA Grand Ballroom. Dinner is included, so bring an empty stomach!

Congratulations to all the District winners!

Movie Night

The movie Journey 2: Mysterious Island will be played tonight in Ryder Cup. The fun begins at 8:30.

Don't miss a time to kick back, relax, and enjoy the film! Join your friends or take this opportunity to meet some

Use Twitter to Keep Updated

Updates about tee times, results and fun tournament info are available on Twitter @OptimistGolf.

Don't forget to use the hashtag #optimistgolf when sharing your experiences at the tournament!



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