



Inner City Youth Golfers' Incorporated

Press Release

“Youth Golfers Are PGA of America’s Next Collegiate Champions”

By Malachi Knowles, Golf Editor



Riviera Beach (USA), May 14, 2009: The Professional Golfers Association of America hosted “two outstanding major events” at the PGA Golf Club, Port St. Lucie, FL during the period May 8-10, 2009. They were the 54 hole, stroke-play “23rd PGA Minority Collegiate Golf Championship” and the “Celebrity Youth Golf Clinic.” This was the 12th year that the collegiate tournament was held there. Yes Celebrity – All of the parents!

The National Minority College Golf Championship originated from a meeting in November 1986 following the Jackson State University Golf Tournament. The late Dr. Herschel Cochrane, President, and Dr. Joe D. Saunders of the National Negro Golf Association, Jackson State University Golf Coach Eddie Payton, Rose Harper-Elder of the Sports Management Institute and William (Bill) Dickey, founder of Bill Dickey Scholarship Association and the 1999 PGA Distinguished Service Award winner, are credited as the founders of this Championship.

Nearly 150 contestants from 30 colleges and universities comprised the field for the 2009 PGA Minority Collegiate Golf Championship. Local area alumni, family, friends, fraternity/sorority and Fairview Golf Club members of FAMU, Morgan State University, Bethune-Cookman University and University of Maryland Eastern Shore were pulling for their teams to be victorious but it just wasn't to be this year. Tennessee State University of Nashville, Tenn., made a furious comeback in the final round to capture the Division I men's title and the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg cruised to victory to claim the women's team division crown.

The Tennessee State Tigers made up ten-strokes on the final day, with three of their five players firing under-par rounds. Chris Seibel of Indianapolis, Ind., who fired a final round 1-under par 71, birdied the 17th hole and saved par on No. 18 to seal the victory. The Tigers won the division by one-stroke over defending champion Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach, FL. The University of Texas-Pan American finished in third place overall. Roberto Cacho of South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, S.C., won the Division I men's individual standings title after carding a final round even-par 72.

In the women's division, the University of Texas-Pan-American won for the first time since 2005, defeating Bethune-Cookman University by 22-strokes. Hampton University, Va. finished in 3rd place overall. Majo Camey from the University of Texas-Pan American claimed the women's individual medalist honors with a three-day-total of 225.

Fayetteville State University, N.C. took home their 4th consecutive Division II title with a 3-day total of 6-under-par 858. Lincoln University of Jefferson City, Mo. finished 34-strokes behind in 2nd place. Virginia State University finished in 3rd place overall. Joel Lynn, from Sanford, N.C., led the Broncos with a 7-under-par 209 total.

In the Independent men's division, Dustin Thompson from the University of North Carolina, carded a final round 71 to win the men's independent division. Christian Heavens of Georgetown College finished in 2nd place, two-strokes behind. Amit Odaiyar of Florida Atlantic University finished in 3rd place overall. Sara Young of Florida State University, Tallahassee captured the women's independent division with a final-round 76, defeating 1st round leader Etivise Latu from California State University by 4-strokes. Rebecca DeLeon of the University of Texas-Pan American finished in third place overall.

Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, FL, the only team competing in the NAIA division, cruised to the 2009 title after carding a final round 329. The Tigers were led by Kipp Jones of Greenville, Wyo., who recorded a 3-day total of 236.

But the real big winners were all of the young golfers who participated in their “Celebrity Youth Golf Clinic” on Saturday by The PGA Foundation whose priority is to grow the game of golf while using it to enhance the quality of life for all people. Golf programs stimulate positive core values such as honesty, integrity, respect, self-assurance, courtesy, and perseverance. Youth golf programs such as TEE-LO (Orlando), ICYG (Palm Beach County), Port St. Lucie and others bring their kids each year and the kids have - FUN.

Clewis Wright, ICYG Director of Golf also invited all of the youth and parents to participate in its “International Youth Golf Challenge” & “Corporate Scholarship Golf Clinic Tournament, Auction, Awards Ceremony and Cook-out” on September 12, 2009 at Bear Lakes Country Club, West Palm Beach, FL.

Attorney Stephanie Harris who recently joined ICYG with her three kids enjoyed themselves so much until they stayed after lunch and played the six hole short course. Others ponder their futures in golf by watching the college teams compete from the sidelines the remainder of the day.

The Westside Gazette Newspaper Family, Bobby R. Henry, Publisher and ICYG extend our congratulations to all of the collegiate competitors, youth golfers and especially Wronowski, Ellison, Bob Baldassari, General Manager, PGA Village and the entire PGA Golf Club staff for an outstanding event. Let’s “grow the game of golf together.”

Photo by Esmeralda H. Knowles: Earnie Ellison, Director, Business & Community Relations, PGA (with shades on – left back center), Allen Wronowski, Vice President, The PGA of America to his right join all of the parents and youth golfers.