

BRJGT Press Report—First Community Bank Junior Classic
Site—Great Oaks Country Club Floyd, VA
Date—Monday July 15, 2019

The Blue Ridge Junior Golf Tour visited Great Oaks Country Club in Floyd, VA on Monday July 15 for the very first time. Great Oaks was chosen for the schedule due to the popularity of the Blue Ridge Tour in Floyd and the surrounding New River Valley “Many participants in the Tour have come from Floyd County so it just made sense for us to request a tournament at Great Oaks. It is fantastic lay-out with many enthusiastic members who have embraced us and made us feel welcome. There is also a rich history here with some very good players learning to play.” (Comments from Dewayne Belcher, Director of Tour Operations) “It is great seeing the kids and we’d love to see them again next year.” (Quote from Head Golf Professional Tommy Ziglar) Players and volunteers enjoyed the surrounding beauty and the thrill of junior golf competition as 56 young golfers took to the links on the well groomed course. Great Oaks has been friendly to young players for a number of years. Floyd County High School has reaped the benefits of this hospitality boasting many district, region and 5 state titles. The school and course is also proud of recent Virginia Tech graduate Amanda Hollandsworth who became the very first All-American for the Virginia Tech Hokies when she finished 5th in the NCAA Women’s Golf National Championship in May. Ironically, Hollandsworth’s coach at Virginia Tech is Carol Robertson, a former BRJGT member. Hollandsworth also participated in the Women’s US Open played earlier this summer in Charleston, SC.

Here is a summary of results:

16-18 Age Group Par 72 6437 Yards

Jason Hall of Dublin, VA played steady down the stretch to post a score of 80 and win the age group for the first time this season. Hall, a multiple winner in years past, made 9 pars on the day and also a lone birdie, but making pars on the 3 closing holes enabled the rising senior at Pulaski County High School to secure the victory. Tyler Williams of Floyd, VA and Peyton Wilson of Rosedale, VA were breathing down the neck of Hall ready to take advantage of any stumble. Williams and Wilson both shot 81 to make it an interesting finish. Alexander White of Bluefield, VA, his brother Benjamin and Noah Moler of Newport, VA shot 82 to tie for fourth.

14-15 Age Group Par 72 6173 Yards

Samantha Skinner of Blacksburg, VA also shot 80 and also was a winner for the first time this season in the age group. Skinner played a 6 hole stretch on the opening nine holes in 2 under which included an eagle 3 on the par 5 sixth hole. A bogey run on the second nine slowed her momentum but it was enough to edge McKenzie Weddle of Floyd, VA by a single shot. Weddle, fresh off a victory in the Peggy Kirk Bell North Carolina Series, finished strong by recording 3 straight pars, but it wasn’t quite enough to overtake Skinner. Jack Davis of Radford, VA was third with a score of 83. Ryne Bond of Floyd, VA was 4th with a score of 84.

12-13 Age Group Par 72 5278 Yards

Tanner Vest of Shady Springs, WV made the long trip to Floyd and was rewarded with the 4th win of the season. Vest put together peaceful nine hole scores of 40 making 6 pars on the

opening side and 4 pars and 2 birdies on the inward trek to claim a 5 shot victory over Talan Gentry of Hillsville, VA. Gentry posted a solid round of 85 to finish 2nd. Grayden Laird of Galax, VA shot 95 and finished 3rd.

10-12 Age Group Par 36 2326 Yards

Jack Skinner of Blacksburg, VA responded to the win of his sister in the 14-15 age group with a win of his own in the 10-12 group. And the younger Skinner did it in style posting an even par round of 36. Skinner made 3 birdies on the round and escaped with a 3 shot victory over multiple winner Grant McCall of Richlands, VA. Skinner halted McCall's win streak at 4 consecutive tournaments though the two hardly are engaged in a heated rivalry. "These two young boys, and others in the age group are very gracious in victory and defeat. They epitomize the meaning of sportsmanship and it is refreshing to see." (Dewayne Belcher comment) Major Ewing of Blacksburg, VA shot 42 and finished 3rd. Isaiah Cantrell of Floyd, VA was a shot back and finished 4th with a score of 43.

9 and Under Age Group Par 36 1752 Yards

Hudson Hurt of Radford, VA won the age group once again with a score of 45. Brother Nolan was 2nd in the age group with a score of 56. Addison Kinder of Tazewell, VA shot 68 to finish 3rd.

The Tour comes to an end next week at the season finale Tour Championship to be played at the Pipestem Resort State Park.