

Golf notebook: Special stop at Poppy

By JERRY STEWART
 Herald Correspondent

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As 13-year-old Seaside resident Justin Anderson explained it, he enjoys golf because "it's about making a perfect, full shot."

Last week, Anderson and about two dozen other deserving local youth got in their swings at Poppy Hills Golf Course, courtesy of the NCGA Foundation's Youth on Course program.

As part of the program, seven different clinics, featuring a partnered community leader, will be held at various Northern California courses throughout the rest of the year. At last week's first event at Poppy Hills, the partnering community leader was Friendship Baptist Church of Seaside.

During the clinics, which lasted three hours each day, the kids received instruction on the driving range or practice putting and chipping areas from Poppy Hills professionals. As part of the program, the kids most importantly also received life skills training.

"The main objective of these clinics is to expose kids who otherwise wouldn't have had the opportunity to interact with successful adults to teach them life skills and values," said Adam Heieck, executive director of the NCGA Foundation.

In addition to the Youth on Course clinics and events, 2011 is the first year where youth aged 16-18 will also have the opportunity to intern at Poppy Hills Golf Course or TPC Harding Park. Being piloted at Poppy Hills and TPC Harding Park with the possibility of being implemented at other Northern California on a regular basis in the future, NCGA Foundation Program Manager Ryan

Gonzalez said the internship program will allow those selected to experience the different aspects of golf course administration, from food and beverage to pro shop duties to golf course maintenance.

"Interns will endure valuable professional growth opportunities. Many of the interns come from at-risk backgrounds and don't have any work experience," Gonzalez said. "It's about cultivating positive relationships and giving them the opportunity to grow."

The first intern of the new program will be 16-year-old Chantelle Davenport of Seaside. Davenport, who attended last week's event at Poppy Hills, has been involved with Youth on Course for nearly two years. She said she's looking forward to having a chance she may not have normally been given.

"Youth on Course has allowed me to meet a lot of different people, great people," Davenport said.

Applications for the Poppy Hills internship are still being accepted. For more info please visit www.ncgafoundation.org/internships.

NCGA Amateur

St. Mary's golf coach Scott Hardy became the first player to ever win two NCGA Amateur Stroke Play Championship titles, shooting a three-day score of 6-under 210 (71-67-72) to win again last weekend at Poppy Hills. The 35-year-old Hardy, who's never placed out of the Top 3 in any NCGA event he's entered the last two years, birdied holes 16 and 18 to claim a three stroke victory over three players including Pacific Grove's Casey Boyns.

Boyns, a California Golf Hall of Famer and winner of the event in 2007, led after the second round but double-bogeyed the first and third holes in the final

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round.

While considered the 8th playing of the championship, the tournament dates to 1944 and lists winners such as Ken Venturi, George Archer and Johnny Miller. After the a nearly 40-year hiatus, the event was renewed in 2004, when Hardy also won.

Charlie Culver Masters

Pleasanton resident Roshan Chekuri posted a two-day score of 135 to capture the Boys' title (16-17 age group) at the recently held Charlie Culver Masters tournament at Salinas Valley G&CC. The Girls' overall winner (15-17 age group) was Katrina Mendez of Salinas with a two-day score of 156. During play, Salinas G&CC member Jake McGowne, who was competing in the age 12-13 group, aced the 16th.

Overall, 101 juniors from Northern California, Florida, Nevada and Utah played in the event.

Eagles for Education

Chevron's Eagles for Education drive during the recent Nature Valley First Tee Open at Pebble Beach generated nearly \$150,000 in added revenue for The First Tee program.

Champions Tour pros made a total of 13 eagles for the week, worth \$8,000 Friday and Saturday and doubled on Sunday. All proceeds from the program went to the learning center at The First Tee of Monterey County.

"What Chevron has done for The First Tee participants throughout Northern California is immeasurable," said Barry Phillips, executive director of The First Tee of Monterey County. "We teach these kids to set goals and most of them would never have even dreamed of going to Pebble Beach to watch the Champions Tour pros. The generous donation will enable us to continue to impact hundreds of lives and expose these kids to the tremendous values the game of golf has to offer."

AT&T Juniors

Nicholas Schanzer shot 41 over nine holes, and defeated Ben Bustoz and John German in a putt-off to win the Silver title in an AT&T Pebble Beach Jr.

Golf Association tourney held Monday at Rancho Canada GC. The Silver girls' winner was Kiko Shudoma with a 58.

In Bronze play (six holes), winners were Tyler Svedberg (27) and Melissa Morales (31), while in Copper play (three holes) winners were Alex Iniakov (19) and Lauren Pritchard (29).

Jerry Stewart can be reached at 384-7916 or at jerry_stewart@sbcglobal.net.

Local aces

- John Craft, of Carmel, on the 132-yard seventh hole at Rancho Canada Golf Club's East Course, using an 8-iron.
- Charlie Craver, of Washington, D.C., on the 108-yard 17th hole at Rancho Canada Golf Club's East Course, using a pitching wedge.
- Mike Anido on the fourth hole at Del Monte Golf Course, using a 4-iron.



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