

A Back Nine for the Ages

Stellar 29 on Oak Creek Inward Half Brings first CBI Title to Ed Zurowski and Dave Plough

AP Irvine, Ca.

In an eerily similar result to the 2008 event up at the Callippe Preserve, the 22nd Annual Clark Brothers Invitational will be remembered as the break through year that Ed Zurowski (21 attempts) and Dave Plough (15 attempts) finally found the winners circle. Like Mssrs. Flint, Ferraro and Canessa the year before, two more great CBI veterans have finally struck paydirt. Led by the serious firepower of Blind Draw fueled Peter Shaw, and bolstered by the steady and strong game of Brian Dougherty, this foursome blistered the back nine at Oak Creek and recorded a beautiful winning score of 8 under par 63 on the demanding 6,850 yard Irvine, California layout. Their two stroke margin of victory over a surprisingly game team led by Richard Hainline, was sealed by four straight birdies on the finishing holes - 14, 15, 16 and 17. Their display of crisp drive management (all players drives were in by the 12th hole) and clutch performance at crunch time made this team very worthy champions. Regrettably, Dave Plough had to catch a flight out of LAX and was not in attendance when the winning score was announced. When reached at his hotel in Brazil the next day Mr. Plough commented, "Thanks, Cousins! It's quite a relief to get off the schneid. I'll celebrate on my plane trip home tonight." Concessions at the airport were alerted in order to stock up with extra provisions.



Champions
The 22nd Annual Clark Brothers Invitational
Brian Dougherty, Peter Shaw, Ed Zurowski, Dave Plough (not pictured)

The winners took the slow route to success this year. Focusing early on drive management, they were conservative in their play on the outward nine, finishing just two under par and two strokes off the pace. With drives out of the way early, they turned on the jets on the back nine and the six under result was enough to capture the victory. Birdie putts fell for all four players. For Peter Shaw, the win represents his third title in four starts. For Brian Dougherty, it represents his second CBI crown in ten tries. With Zurowski and Plough now firmly entrenched in the winners circle, the yoke of tournament frustration now falls on Jack Harrington (17 tries) and John McGushin (14 tries).

In the runner up position with a score of six under 65, we find the steady play of Richard Hainline, Rick Palmer, John Yenny and Matt Clark. This group's play was similar to that of the winners in that they did an excellent early job of drive management and finished the front side in a similar two under position. A four birdie, no bogey back side left them alone in second, when regrettably the surging Jim Retzlaff group bogeyed the final hole to fall down to third position. Retzlaff's foursome led for more of the day than any other group (either in the lead or tied for it from their 6th hole through their 15th), and included tournament veterans Lee Llevano and Joe Cirincione, along with first year CBI player Joe Ross. It was a lofty finish for Retzlaff, and coupled with his very strong match play win the previous day made for an impressive two day showing.

In fourth place also carding a five under 66, was the foursome of Marc Corless, Stewart Bush, Scott Wallace and another first time CBI player Brian Fugere. There were four groups who tied with four under par 67's.

In the skills competitions, Jeff Dense won the putting contest with an effort of undisclosed proximity. Joe Cantu won the long drive contest on the incorrect 13th hole after edging past long ball hitting junior Andrew Clark. Ed Zurowski won the closest to the pin with a strike to 5'1" on the par 3 12th, and yes, their group did make the birdie putt!

Top Finishers

P. Shaw, B. Dougherty	-8
E. Zurowski, D. Plough	
R. Hainline, R. Palmer	-6
J. Yenny, M. Clark	
J. Retzlaff, L. Llevano	-5
J. Ross, J. Cirincione	
M. Corless, S. Bush	-4
S. Wallace, B. Fugere	
S. Anderson, J. Ferraro	-4
J. Harrington, C. Corless	

By virtue of his strong Blue and Gold match play victory coupled with his teams second place CBI finish, Matt Clark finished in first place in the 2009 Ron Plough Junior Golfer Scholarship competition with a score of 17 points. Coming in second with 12 points was Patrick Clark, who relied on his "Civil War on the Links" margin of victory over Lee Batson for his strong placing. Coming in third was first year player Joe Ross, who banked his show position by virtue of his teams excellent third place CBI finish.

Due to the fact that the Jeff Dense led foursome incorrectly signed for an even par "72" despite shooting a 71 (they forgot what the par was on the Oak Creek layout), Jeff was the gracious winner of the "C 'Ya Jimmy Award", given to the Captain of the highest scoring foursome. The jacket was a most impressive fit, although the cap appeared to give him some degree of discomfort.

The Blind Draw foursome selection methodology appeared to be a huge hit (especially with Mssrs. Zurowski and Plough) and will be utilized again in 2010. The two day event though perhaps belonged most to Ed Zurowski. The perennial tournament favorite and all around good guy finally made it to the top of the mountain. To make it even sweeter though, he gave his Gold side a ½ point the previous day, despite being thrown a vicious 78 by Andrew Clark. His defensive shields produced an incredible 80 in reply, which is the best two day showing for Ed in tournament history. All tournament participants shared in congratulating the popular Rockford, Illinois resident. Thanks to all of our participants this year, and we hope to see all of you in August of 2010 in northern California for the 23rd running of this tournament.