

JINGLE BELL GOLF DESPITE A NIP IN THE AIR, SEASONAL TOURNAMENT DRAWS ALL AGES TO THE GREENS AT DELRAY'S LAKEVIEW GOLF CLUB

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The field included a former Florida state high school champion, a 3-year-old, 19 members of the Transleau extended family and a father and two sons from New Jersey.

The 11th Jingle Bell Scramble, played the day after Christmas at Delray Beach's Lakeview Golf Club, delivered its traditional fun day of golf despite nippy weather and 40 mph wind gusts. In fact, four teams quit after the first few holes because of the 35-degree wind chill, the coldest in the tournament's history.

Tournament director Sandra Eriksson still declared the event a success, citing a capacity field of 125 and the fact that several would-be competitors were turned away at the gate.

Mike Jarnot, 12, whose lowest score for 18 holes is 82, was part of the winning foursome that shot a 10-under-par 50 on the 3,006-yard layout. He played with his mother, Lisa Jarnot; Nick Clark and Clark's grandfather, Devlyn Moore.

Notre Dame freshman Eddie Peckles, winner of the state Class A title in 2003 as a senior at Pope John Paul II High School in Boca Raton, played on the fourth-place team that shot a 52.

Peckles, whose family now lives in North Carolina, was happy to escape the gray dreariness of South Bend, Ind., even if the temperatures were a bit Northern winter-like.

"I don't mind the cold up there," he said. "I just miss the sun."

Peckles said he has been getting a real education at Notre Dame, in more ways than one. He made several swing adjustments during the fall season and only played in two tournaments. But he is learning what it takes to be competitive on the Division I level while also trying to meet the university's rigorous academic standards.

"They just push you to a completely different level. It's just completely different than high school," Peckles said. "Every part of the school brings out the best in you and brings out stuff you didn't think you had. Everything is challenging. Our workouts are brutal, practices are always really competitive and school is really challenging."

Peckles' workouts consist of conditioning exercises and weight training. There's a heated driving range five minutes from campus and the school is building an indoor short-game facility that should be completed in the spring of 2006.

"We lift a lot of weights," Peckles said. "It's funny thinking of golfers lifting weights but Tiger Woods has kind of revolutionized the game in that respect."

Mike Jarnot fell in love with golf when he was introduced to the game by his mom at age 9. The family's home is on the Winston Trails Golf Course in Lake Worth, making it easy for Mike to indulge his passion.

"During the summer I play every day from 8 in the morning until it gets dark," said Mike, who prefers golf to any other sport. "With baseball you can only play to a certain age because you can get injured. But golf I can play for my entire life."

"I like that I can control myself and don't have to blame anyone else for my mistakes. I just like playing."

Tony McCracken and his sons, Tony, 19, and Brian, 17, have made the Jingle Bell Scramble a part of their holiday tradition. They live in South Brunswick, N.J., and also have a place in Delray where they spend three weeks every year. They've participated in the tournament for nine of the 11 years and are still looking for their first victory. But having fun is their primary objective.

"When we first came down to this area years ago we enjoyed the courses so much," said the senior McCracken. "Sandra opened her arms to us and introduced us to some great junior programs. It's nice to see how much this tournament has grown over the years. We always have a great time."

Results

Champions: 50 (-10) Devlyn Moore, Nick Clark, Lisa Jarnot, Mike Jarnot.

Second: *51 (-9) Jon Transleau, Ian Transleau, Jack English, John English.

Third: 51 (-9) Kelsey Weiner, Al Weiner, Jordan Levow, Larry Levow.

Fourth: 52 (-8) Anthony Armentrout, Eddie Peckles, Johnny Yurt, John Yurt.

Fifth: *54 (-6) Zachary Markle, Jonathan Markle, Nick Garito, Tim Garito.

Sixth: *54 (-6) Matt Madsen, Jeff Madsen, Eric Madsen, Mal Madsen.

Seventh: 54 (-6) Hunter Stofft, Taylor Stofft, Ed Stofft, Gary Stofft.

* -- match of cards

Closest to the pin: Girls -- Kelsey Weiner (19 feet); Boys--Nick Garito (5 feet, 1 inch).