

Don't risk losing your amateur status

BY CARR MCCALLA

An important reminder to all amateur golfers: In order to maintain your amateur status you may not participate in any event that offers cash prizes, unless you sign a document before the competition begins waiving your right to any cash prize. The USGA is very clear with respect to its rules of amateur status. There's a complete section on the Rules of Amateur Status in the back of the USGA Rules of Golf booklet. In brief, an amateur golfer may accept merchandise up to a value of \$750 but cannot accept a cash prize in any amount. An amateur golfer may compete in an event that offers cash prizes, but must sign a waiver before participation, indicating that he/she will not accept any cash prize regardless of their finish in the competition. For more information on the rules of amateur status, please call the LGA offices at 337.265.3938.

LGA CHAMPIONSHIP RECAP

The 2006 LGA golf season has been the most exciting in years. Our first event of the year, the always popular Club Team Championship, saw Hebert Municipal Golf Club from Lafayette become the first-ever public facility to capture the season-opening Championship. Held at Copper Mill Golf Club in Zachary in late April, 24 teams representing LGA Member Clubs battled over 36 holes to claim the title. It was truly a family affair as two sets of brothers (Ted, Todd, and Thad Weber and James and Paul Hamilton) combined with David Duhon to bring the trophy home to the course that used to be known as Lafayette "Muny" (re-named in honor of Lafayette natives Lionel and Jay Hebert a few years ago). Pine Hills Country Club's Glenn Roscoe (see more about him in the next paragraph) added to the theatrics of the weekend with a hole-in-one on the eighth hole Sunday. Carter Plantation, a relatively new David Toms design in Springfield, just west of Hammond, hosted the Senior 4-Ball Championship in early May, with northeastern Louisiana residents Glenn Roscoe and Johnny Futch out dueling a pair of Shreveport residents (both former LGA Senior Amateur Champions), Eddie Lyons and Jim Lipe. Roscoe ran in a 20-foot birdie putt on the first sudden death playoff hole to capture the title for he and Futch. The golf course was a winner too, as it drew rave reviews from the field of top notch Louisiana seniors. Carter Plantation will host the 2007 LGA Senior Amateur Championship next August in what promises to be a great event.

How would you feel if you took a three shot lead into the final round of the State Amateur Championship, shot two under par and lost? Ask Covington's Tommy Brennan, as that's exactly what happened to him in June at our amateur championship at The Country Club of Louisiana in Baton Rouge. CCL, one of the top courses in the state and one of our most popular venues, was the site in early June of one of the most exciting and well played final rounds in the history of this championship, which dates back to 1920. The course was in wonderful condition as Jason Kuperman of Shreveport out dueled Brennan over the last nine holes to capture the 87th edition of our marquee championship. After a Kuperman birdie and a Brennan bogey on the par-3 13th gave Kuperman a one-shot lead, Brennan birdied the par-5 15th to slide back into a tie at 12-under par for the tournament. A Brennan bogey on No. 16 and two unbelievable up-

and-downs for par by Kuperman on Nos. 16 and 17 brought the two competitors to the 18th tee with Kuperman holding a one-shot lead. After two great drives, and with the hole location hard against the water on the left side of the green, Brennan fired his approach shot 20 feet right of the flag. Kuperman, not to be outdone, hit his second shot inside Brennan to about six feet. Brennan, facing a must-make putt to stay in the hunt, ran his birdie putt into the heart of the hole, putting the pressure right back onto Kuperman, who promptly sank his 6-footer for a 6-under par 66 on the day and the win. Brennan, who shot 2-under 70 on Sunday, settled for his fourth runner-up finish in the amateur.

Bayou De Siard Country Club in Monroe served as host for the Junior Amateur Championship in mid-July and extended wonderful hospitality to the best junior players in the state. Shreveport's

Cody Santone and Andrew Noto from Luling finished in a dead heat after 54 holes and proceeded to a sudden-death playoff to determine the 2006 Junior Champion. Beginning on No. 1, both players made easy pars. The next playoff hole, the par-4 7th, saw Santone roll in a 10 footer from just off the putting surface to stay alive as Noto was already in with his par. After two pars on No. 8, the two players both missed the green on the par-3 ninth, Santone missing short left, with Noto hitting his tee shot into the bunker short right. Noto, with an extremely difficult downhill lie, hit a wonderful bunker shot to about five feet and Santone chipped to three feet from just off the green. After Noto lipped out his par putt, Santone quickly sank his 3-footer to claim the crown. In addition to the Overall Championship, the LGA crowned champions in the following age divisions: 10-11-year-olds (John Sams and Matthew Gilcrest), 12-year-olds (Hayden Bigby), 13-year-olds (Myles Lewis), 14-year-olds (Landon Lyons), 15-year-olds (Trey Neck) and 16-17-year-olds (Michael Smith).



INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR FOUR-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

We're pleased to announce that Santone and Noto will represent the LGA in the second annual International Junior 4-Ball Championship at the Westin Savannah Golf Resort and Spa in Savannah, Ga. Many state and regional golf associations nationwide will send teams representing their organizations in this prestigious championship. We wish the best of luck to Cody and Andrew. We'll also make a point to report on their experiences at the event in next month's "Inside the Ropes."

It's hard to believe but by the time you read this, we'll have completed our 2006 LGA Championship schedule. We'll recap the 4-Ball, Mid-Am, Senior Am and Net Am Championships in next month's column and will also reveal our LGA Championship schedule for 2007. We're excited to take some of our Championships in 2007 to venues we've never been to before and are confident you'll want to work your 2007 summer schedule around some of our dates.

See you next month...Inside the Ropes!

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