

# Sanchez honored by BREC

The BREC Commission approved the selection of the 2009 Champions of BREC at the Feb. 26 monthly commission meeting.

During the February meeting of the BREC Communications Committee, two "Champions" were selected for recommendation to the BREC Commission.

The 2009 champions are Dr. Joe Smith and Gayle Sanchez. Champions of BREC are people who have used BREC's recreational programming to enrich their lives and the lives of others in the Baton Rouge community.

Sanchez began his affiliation with BREC (The Recreation and Parks Commission of East Baton Rouge Parish) at the young age of 6 by learning the game of golf. Sanchez also participated in BREC's baseball leagues from ages 8-16. In the summers, he practiced baseball in the mornings and golf in the afternoons.

Today, Sanchez is a highly decorated golfer and the reigning City Amateur Champion. He is also one of very few to qualify and play in all U.S. Men's National Championships produced by the United States Golf Association. He is still an avid BREC golfer and feels he owes much of his success to his start at Howell Park.

Sanchez believes that BREC has enriched his life and gave him the ability to obtain outstanding golf skills. Aside from being an accomplished golfer, Sanchez has maintained a career as a practicing dentist for 34 years.

Many Champions of BREC have been both locally and nationally recognized in their fields of excellence for skills honed

through BREC. The 2009 winners will join an elite crowd. Champions alumni include: Kurt Ainsworth, Jo Paul Steiner, Darren Clark, Jason Garey, Denny Braud, Nicole and Tiffany Wesley, Seimone Augustus, Bob Pierce, the Lady Patriots Badminton team, Warrick Dunn, Collis Temple III, Brittney Kimble, the Tigerettes, Alexis "The Tiger" Veal, Susannah Lazar, Megan Messina, Doug Williams, A.J. Parro and BREC Sports Academy Alumnus which includes Glen Davis, Tasmin Mitchell, Tyrus Thomas and Garrett Temple.

The newest Champions of BREC were inducted on March 16 in Baton Rouge, La.

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### OAKWING TAKES LGA CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Alexandria's OakWing Golf Club finished six shots ahead of Beau Chene Country Club of Mandeville in the 21st annual LGA Club Team Championship held at Tamahka Trails Golf Club in Marksville the weekend of April 18-19.

The winning squad from OakWing included Frank Brame, Keith Breazeale, Craig Campo, Dusty Green, Ben Hargis, and Jason Lewis. Beau Chene's team was made up of Gary Barocco, Joel Childress, Jay Coxe, Skip Sewell, Andy Smith, and Pete Theo. The weather was a challenge but the Tamahka Trails course held up well in spite of almost three inches of rain during tournament weekend.

### BACK TO BETHPAGE BLACK

I'll plan on reporting from my annual trip to the U.S. Open again this year in my next column. The USGA is heading back to the A.W. Tillinghast-design at Bethpage Black on Long Island for their marquee event. Only seven years since the Open was first taken to "the Black" in 2002, the USGA returns, a sure sign of their tremendous respect for this venue.

*See you in a couple months.....Inside the Ropes... at the '09 Open!*

*Carr McCalla is the Executive Director of the Louisiana Golf Association. He can be reached by phone (337.265.3938) or e-mail (cmccalla@lgagolf.org).*



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