

Canadian Optimist Junior Golf National Championships 2014 Highlights

The Twenty-third Annual National Optimist Junior Golf Championships were held at the Fanshawe Golf and Country Club, London, Ontario for the third consecutive year. Two eighteen hole courses were used for the Championships and the weather overall was good for all three days. There was some light rain late on the second day of play but it did not affect play. Competition among the junior golfers that teed it up, with a few exceptions, was keen with several players having a chance to win their division at the final round of the fifty four hole Championships.

Boys 16 - 18 Division – Chris Hennigar of London, Ontario shot a 68 in the second round to take a five stroke lead into the medal round and he was still up three strokes with nine holes to play. However, four players were within four strokes of his lead including defending Champion Ryan Vandebroek of St. Thomas, Ontario. On the second last hole, a 482 yard par 5, Noah Harkness of Toronto, Ontario carded an eagle while Chris shot a double. This four stroke swing sealed the Division and Overall Championship for Noah (73-75-68- 216). Ryan finished second shooting (72-76-70- 218) while Chris finished third with scores of 73-68-77- 218.

Boys 14 – 15 Division - Peyton Callens of Langton, Ontario and Michael Dubois of Brantford, Ontario were in the final pairing and battled each other right to the 54th hole. Although Peyton was three strokes ahead going into the medal round he was only one shot ahead of Michael coming to the last hole. Michael's effort to pull even on the final hole fell short. Peyton posted 73-72-76- 221 total while Michael shot 72-76-75-223. Eric Shea of Brantford, Ontario shot the best final round score of 72 to finish the Division Championship in third place with a 225 total.

Boys 12 - 13 Division – This was an all Waterloo, Ontario competition between Eli Matthew and Dylan Henderson. Eli shot a terrific 70 on the second day which gave him an eight shot lead heading to the final day. Dylan managed to close the gap by two strokes to finish at 229 for the Division Championships. Eli shot 75-70-78 for a 223 total.

Boys 10 – 11 Division – Play-offs are always exciting and Rylan Marontate of Harrow, Ontario and Maddox Callens of Langton, Ontario were tied at 256 after three days of play. Maddox made up the needed two strokes in the final round to force the play-off. Rylan had a par on the first play-off hole as opposed to the bogey shot by Maddox to win this Division.

Girls 15 – 18 Division – Katie McTaggart of Guelph, Ontario comfortably won the Senior Girls Division with scores of 79-84-79 for a 242 total for the tournament. Marlee Darrach of Petrolia shot 262 for the tournament to take second place.

Girls 10 – 14 Division – Cindy Won of London, Ontario led this division wire-to-wire. She carded 87-88-91-266 total to win this Division.

