

# PINEHURST NEWS

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## CODY, LIU AND MARTIN TAKE TOP HONORS AT 60<sup>th</sup> DONALD ROSS JUNIOR

VILLAGE OF PINEHURST, N.C. (December 28, 2007) – The Donald Ross Junior played its 60<sup>th</sup> Championship this week at the Pinehurst Resort. The tournament was established as a memorial to the famed Scottish architect with its namesake, who passed away in 1948. Play began with 202 boys in three age divisions. 120 boys competed in the 15 to 17 year old division. 66 competed in the 12 to 14 year old division and 16 in the 11 & under division. The older boys took on the Centennial Pinehurst No. 8, site of two National Club Professional Championships as well as stroke play qualifying in the historic North & South Amateur Championships. The two younger divisions competed on the Ellis Maples' designed Pinehurst No. 5.

In the 15 to 17 Division, Austin Cody of North Charleston, SC accomplished a rarely duplicated feat by winning back-to-back Championships in two different divisions. Cody, only 15 years of age, was the victor in the 12 to 14 year old division of last year's 59<sup>th</sup> Donald Ross Junior and now holds the title in the 15 to 17 Division. In somewhat unorthodox fashion, Cody lost his overnight lead almost immediately after starting his final round. Out of the gates with a par, bogey, double, Cody found himself tied with eventual third place finisher Stefan Brewer, of Charlotte, NC and trailing eventual sixth place finisher Christian Hawley of Kernersville, NC. Through nine holes of play, Cody was 1-shot clear of both eventual runner-up Jack Fields and Hawley, 2-shots behind Brewer, and tied with sixth place finisher Zack Butler of Lexington, KY. Not shaken by his start, however, Cody birdied 4 of his remaining nine holes for a 4-under par 32 and the Championship. Fields, of nearby Southern Pines, NC, fired a phenomenal final round 3-under par 69, low round of the event, to take runner-up honors alone at 1-under par 143 strokes. With the aforementioned Brewer in third at even par 144, Pinehurst's Patrick Barrett finished tied for fourth with Robert Hoadley, of Southern Pines, at a total of 145 strokes to round out the top-5.

In the 12 to 14 Division, Jim Liu, of Smithtown, NY, Champion in last year's 11 & under division, followed suit with Cody by taking the title in the middle division. Liu, now only a 12 year old, steadily controlled his game to outlast all other competitors and post a tidy, even par 72-72—144. Nursing only a 2-shot lead after the first round, Liu would not falter and completed his front nine at 1 shot better than par. Thought to be distancing himself from the field, Liu actually needed a solid finish to hold off hard-charging eventual runners-up Grayson Murray of Raleigh, NC and Hayden Garrett of Easley, SC. Murray, who played two groups behind the leaders, fired a 3-under par 33 on the front nine to briefly cut into Liu's lead, but slipped on his final nine holes. Garrett, who played with Liu, started slowly, but made a mid-round push to catch the Champion. Only 1-shot separated the players on the tee of their 36<sup>th</sup> hole. Liu made par while Garrett made double bogie to equal the final margin. Rounding out the top-5 in fourth alone was Tommy Hurst of Miami Shores,

FL at 149 strokes. Tied for 5<sup>th</sup> were Chris O'Neill of Glen Allen, VA and Dylan Harris, of Southern Pines, NC who both finished at 150 strokes.

In the 11 & Under Division, Pinehurst local Joshua Martin followed in his older brother Zachary's footsteps with a title in the youngest division of the Donald Ross Junior Championship. Zachary, Champion in the 58<sup>th</sup> Donald Ross Junior now competes in the middle division. Buoyed by an overnight 3-shot advantage, Joshua established control quickly by playing his first nine holes 2-under par and increasing his lead to 5 shots over eventual runner-up Zachary Bauchou of Forest, VA. Martin continued his stellar play with two more birdies offset by only one bogey to finish with a final round 3-under par 69. His final tally of 74-69—143 was 6 shots clear of Bauchou. In third place was Tanner Owen of High Point, NC at 158 strokes. Rounding out the top-5 were Will Blalock of Gastonia, NC and Thomas Walsh also of High Point, NC.

The 61<sup>st</sup> Donald Ross Junior Championship will be held at the Pinehurst Resort in December of 2008. For future results and detailed information pertaining to the Championship, please visit <http://www.pinehurst.com/drj.asp>.

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