

Decker, Cato team to win 5th Carolina Pro-Junior

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Greenville's Andrew Decker made up for a lot of
heartbreak last week when he teamed up with Bradford Creek pro Mike

Cato to win the Carolina Golf Association's 5th Carolinas
Pro-Junior.

Just a couple of weeks ago, Decker lost in a playoff for the
Dogwood State Junior Championship, but this time the title
didn't elude him.

Decker, a rising senior in high school, and Cato played the
6,684-yard par 72 Old North State course near New London in a
tournament record 9-under 63. The format of the event was a
modified alternate shot, where both players hit drives, choose the
best, then alternate shots the remainder of the hole.

The duo recorded an eagle, eight birdies and a lone bogey for
the victory, although it took them a while to get started. They
posted pars on two relatively easy par 5s and made a bogey on a
short par 4. But after that, they took fire, posting a 30 on the
back nine to win.

Decker, after his second-place finish in the Dogwood, recorded a
victory in the AIGA National Golf Prize championship the following
week, warming up for the Pro-Junior. He has orally committed to
play for N.C. State following his senior year.

For Cato, it was his second CGA win. He and his father, Bob, won
the Carolinas Father-Son in 1994.

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Adam Stephenson, of Greenville and a member of the East Carolina
University golf team, captured a tie for third place in the 2010
Cardinal Amateur held at The Cardinal in Greensboro.
Stephenson had a 64-72-71-207 to finish the event,
which drew golfers from around the world.

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The Greene County Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Golf
Classic at Cutter Creek on Sept. 9 with a 1 p.m. tee time. The
event will be a four-person superball.

The entry fee is \$75 per person or \$300 per team. This includes
greens and cart tees, mulligans, range balls, lunch and dinner,
prizes on all par 3s, the longest drive and a putting contest.

Registration forms may be found at
www.greenechamber.com or
by contacting Larry Pate at 747-5958.

Ayden

John Nichols scored a hole-in-one on the 12th hole at Ayden Golf
and Country Club. He was playing with Maehew Haddock and Bob
Aikers.

The club will host the annual Collard Festival Golf Tournament
on Sept. 11-12. Contact the club at 746-3389, ext. 1 for more
details on the tournament.

Brook Valley

Brook Valley will hold its monthly Couples Golf Tournament next Sunday. The format will be a captain's choice. Contact the pro shop to sign up for this event.

Rich Rados made a hole-in-one on the eighth hole at Brook Valley last week. Witnessing the shot were Mack Worley, Rick Kammon and Rod Johnson.

Harry Pawlik posted an eagle on the 14th hole during the Men's Golf Association's Nine at 5:30. He was playing with David Thereault and Carl Augustson.

Cypress Landing

Last week, we noted that a hole-in-one had been made on the 15th hole at Cypress Landing. Turns out that another ace was made on the same hole the very next day. Sue Shaffer hit her driver from 115 yards to ace the hole. It was her first hole-in-one. She was playing with Alice Gryson, Carol Gleason and Arlene Hill when she made the shot.

Greenville

A four-person superball will be the format for Wednesday's Men's Night, teeing off at 5:30 p.m.

Ladies day will be Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. The format will be "throw out two holes."

Ironwood

Ironwood will hold a Jack and Jill Golf Tournament on Saturday with tee times beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Teams must consist of one Jack and one Jill. Both net and gross winners will receive prizes. Net will be determined by one-half of the lowest handicap on the team.

The entry fee is \$60 per team and includes golf, prizes and lunch at the turn.

Robersonville

Christ Church of Winterville captured first place in the first flight of the Robersonville Country Club's Church League.

Eight teams competed in the flight. The championship and first flights were played a week earlier.

The winners, Bob Campbell, Tom Moye and David White, shot a 6-under 30 to win. Everetts Baptist No. 2's Johnathon

Dail, Freddie Jackson, Alan Paschal and Clark Gurganus were second.

The season-long prize for closest to the pin on No. 8 went to the late Jean Ross, just 25 inches away with a shot in May. Ross passed away later in the summer at age 86. Scott Veilleux won for closest at No. 5, 48 inches away.

A "Memorial" Tournament will be held on

Sept. 4 and a glowball tournament will be held Sept. 18. Both will be 4-person superballs. Contact the club at 795-4212 to play.

You Can Play

Monday, Ironwood: Boys and Girls Clubs of Pitt County Golf Classic. Four person superball, entry fee \$500 per team, \$125 per individual. For more info, go to

www.bgc-pitt.org or call Jay

Faron at 355-2345, ext. 202.

Friday, Ironwood. QSA Foundation's Helping Homeless Children and Military Families. For more information, contact

Sheila M. Parson at 313-408-0683.

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To place golfing information, tournaments upcoming, results, etc. in this column, fax info to 754-8140 or e-mail to wpeelee@reflector.com.

Area Results

Ayden

Member/Guest

Championship flight: 1, Tim Shadle and Ed Mueller; 2nd flight: Tom Boyd and Joe Tripp; 3rd flight: Bruce Wade and B.J. Wade; 4th flight: Hal Steuart and Jay Collie; 5th flight: Cliff Dunn & Frank Dunn.

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Greenville

Men's Night

1, T.J. Lewis and Matt Aldridge; 2, Bobby McLemore and Ashley Rolfe

Ladies Day

Most One Putts: Front, 1, Peggy Barnes; 2, Joyce Wittman; Back, 1, Joyce Wittman; 2 (tie), Ginny Hill and Donna Taft

Beau's Buddies

1, Ben Parrott, Mark Honeycutt, Brad Williams and David Kuhn; 2, Matt Aldridge, Patrick Robertson, Matt Porter and Brad Carter; Middle of the pack: Mike Steele, Jesse Baker, Rick Webb and Jeff Edwards

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Ironwood

LGA Play Day

Gross 1, Debbie Pruitt; 2, Mary Katherine LaMonica; 3, MerrySandra Kennedy; Net 1, Karen Woodson, 2, Jan Thornton; 3 (tie), Leslie Bailey and Rosanne Davis. Putts: 1, Pruitt 14; 2 (tie), Bailey and LaMonica 15; 3 (tie), Thornton and Woodson, 16.

Junior Club Championship

Boys: Evan House; Girls: Morgan Minto; 9-10 boys: 1, Milan Minto; 2 (tie), Tripp Harper and Jackson.

BRISTOL, TENN.

Vickers had heart surgery

NASCAR driver Brian Vickers said Saturday he had heart surgery last month as part of his treatment for blood clots.

Vickers stopped racing in May when doctors discovered clots in his leg and lungs, and said in his first update in three months that a third clot was found in a finger on his left hand.

Vickers said doctors determined that clot had traveled to his finger through a hole in his heart, and had surgery July 12 to close the passageway. A day later, he had a second procedure to insert a stent into a vein in his left leg. Vickers, 26, said his choices were to undergo the heart surgery, or "not to close it and run the risk of having a stroke.

"I would rather die than have a stroke," he said. "I don't want to run the risk of living like a vegetable."

NEW YORK

Del Potro withdraws from Open

Defending champion Juan Martin del Potro withdrew from the U.S. Open on Saturday, saying he "cannot compete at the top level yet" after having an operation on his right wrist in May.

He becomes only the third U.S. Open men's champion in the 42-year Open era who didn't defend the title. And del Potro's announcement arrives a day after Serena Williams became the first No. 1 in the 35-year history of the women's rankings to miss the U.S. Open. She still is recovering from surgery for cuts on her right foot.

The 6-foot-6 del Potro has not played on tour since the Australian Open in January because of an injury to his right, racket-swinging wrist. The 21-year-old Argentine had surgery in May, then recently began training in hopes of playing at Flushing Meadows.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

SAN DIEGO

Chargers' Thomas retires

The San Diego Chargers say 35-year-old left offensive tackle Tra Thomas has retired, leaving the team woefully thin at a crucial position.

Thomas was signed as insurance when it became apparent that Marcus McNeill might stage a prolonged holdout. Thomas, a 12-year veteran, had arthroscopic surgery on his right knee.

General manager A.J. Smith didn't return a call seeking comment Saturday.

Even if McNeill ended his holdout, Smith placed him on the roster exempt list on Friday, meaning he'll be suspended for three games once he signs his contract tender.

McNeill is unhappy that he hasn't been given a long-term deal.

From Associated Press reports

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