Tim Frazier, PGA Pivotal Holes at Sycamore Hills Golf Club



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36th Junior PGA Championship presented by Under Armour and Heritage F.S.E, Aug. 2 - 5, at Sycamore Hills Golf Club

Tim Frazier, PGA Head Professional at Sycamore Hills Golf Club in Fort Wayne, Ind., and President of the Indiana PGA Section, previews the Championship layout:

You want to get off to a good start to your round by taking advantage of a couple early scoring opportunities. After the lengthy start on No. 1, Nos. 2, 3 and 5 give you three great birdie opportunities, which you will want to take advantage of because it gets more difficult after that.

The pivotal point on the front nine starts on No. 6 where water is lurking off the tee and with the approach shot to the green. The medium-length par-3 7th is a tremendous challenge. The tee shot is completely over water to a green that angles away from the golfer. The bunker behind the green is a better refuge than the water short, but it's no guarantee as swirling winds will keep the golfer guessing at all times.

Getting off to a good start on the back nine is a challenge with the very difficult approach shot to the par-4 10th and the lengthy par-3 11th. An early bogey on the back nine can sometimes press the golfer into an unnecessary second shot risk on the par-5 12th, adding to the difficult back nine start.

Nos. 14-16 will be the pivotal holes for determining the Champion of 36th Junior PGA Championship presented by Under Armour and Heritage F.S.E. A seemingly benign par-3 14th starts the trek and always proves tough, with a sloping green well-guarded by bunkers short right and long left.

Next up is Jack's Signature Hole, the risk reward par-5 15th. If the golfer can hit a perfectly placed tee shot over the Aboite River and past the Sweet Gum tree into the "garden spot", the golfer now is in a position to go for the green in two. However, significant challenges are ahead with two more crossings of the Aboite River hitting into a long and slender green complex guarded by bunkers and the river wrapping around the right side of the green. Finally, there is No. 16, a brute of a hole with a very angry green complex featuring a sloping kidney bean-shaped green. The golfer must execute a precise iron shot to hold the green before even considering a rare opportunity for a birdie putt. Any ball missing the putting surface has a significant challenge getting up and in for a save. If the leaders can survive this stretch, they are well on their way to claiming the Patty Berg or Jack Nicklaus trophy!

For more information on any of The PGA of America or the 36th Junior PGA Championship, please visit PGAJuniorSeries.com or contact Randy Stutzman at 561-624-8438 or rstutzman@pgahq.com