

Tuesday, August 25, 2009
Publication: The Journal News
Byline: Mike Dougherty

Play hundreds of holes, raise thousands

The inaugural Westchester Golf Association Caddie Scholarship Fund Marathon raised more than \$80,000 as 27 golfers took part, many playing more than 100 holes at Trump National

BRIARCLIFF MANOR - Only the foolhardy took practice swings yesterday during the inaugural Westchester Golf Association Caddie Scholarship Fund Marathon. There were plenty of golfers playing through. And when the sun began to slip below the horizon at Trump National Golf Club, the dozen or so golfers left on the course actually began to pick up the pace in hopes of getting in a couple of extra holes. Most had already been around the course six times. In the end, nobody played more than Jonathan Margolies.

The Sedgewood Club's head professional doesn't normally get to play a lot of golf, but he got in 139 holes yesterday before the horn blew at 7:30 p.m. It's been more than a few years since Margolies has played that much golf in a single day. "Back when I was a kid playing at Old Oaks, we couldn't go out until 2 o'clock," said Margolies, who got nearly \$2,000 in pledges from his members. "We'd usually get a cart and try getting in 72 holes before dark. In our heads, it was like our own PGA event." He's not likely to bounce right back after this outing. "My feet really hurt," Margolies said after giving a cranky back a good stretch. "I didn't hardly look up, but I'll be coming back to do it again."

All told, the 27 players who participated yesterday raised more than \$80,000 for the scholarship fund. Some of the golfers solicited pledges based on the number of holes they played. Some collected based on birdies. Some took whatever they could get in lump sums. "I usually play a lot at Century anyway, so I figured this was a good idea," said Max Elgart, a 15-year-old who played 105 holes with his father, David, helping out and pinch hitting from time to time. "This is more golf than I've ever played."

The rules were pretty simple: hit and run. "It was interesting this morning," said Ray Soares, a resident of New Rochelle who played 100 holes. "There were people all over the place hitting on top of people. It was a wild scene." Donald Trump donated the use of the course, and picked up the cart tab. The only snag was the fact all the rain that fell over the weekend prevented the golfers from taking carts onto the lush fairways. Early in the day, golfers were grabbing a couple of clubs and running. Most had lost a step as dinnertime approached. Some began to putt with any club in hand as darkness set in.

"I'm on my seventh ball and fifth PowerBar," said Frank Contey, the caddiemaster at Tuxedo, who played 121 holes and raised more than \$18,000 to lead the field late in the day. Very few golfers stopped to pick up boxed lunches. "I ate half a turkey sandwich, but I drank seven or eight Powerades, four Diet Cokes and countless waters," said Phil Auerbach, a Brae Burn member who had \$185 pledged for each of the 31 birdies he made. "And I must have missed 25 putts inside of 10 feet."

A number of past caddie scholarship winners came back to help raise money. Everybody was keeping score, but nobody was putting out. The rules were loosely interpreted at best, and nobody was complaining about bad shots. "You just have to be focused," said former Winged Foot caddie and scholarship recipient Steven Wesley, a Mamaroneck native now teaching in New Canaan, Conn. "I'm having a great time. I'm doing pretty good. I've got two birdies, a whole bunch of pars and a whole bunch of triples."

Caption: Graham Klehr-Keyes, a WGA intern, hustles off the Trump National course after playing his 126th hole of the day.