

Sports

Golf enthusiasts ready to learn

Nancy Gould
Hunter Public Affairs

Five boys assembled at Hunter Golf Course, anxious for their turn on the greens to putt with Tommie McArthur, the Hunter Golf Course golf pro and manager. It was the first of two days of instruction meant to teach and/or improve the golfing techniques of the children, whose ages varied as widely as their skills.

"I've been playing golf since I was two," said seven-year-old Vincent Aquino, looking relaxed as he approached the greens to putt. Aquino was one of three seven-year-olds in the group, in addition to a 13 and 15-year-old.

"I'm here to practice my swing," said 15-year-old James Woodbery, who said he has already earned a Boy Scout badge for his golfing skills.

Seven-year-old Jarod Kuhfahl claimed he used his own money to pay the \$15 camp fee because he just wanted to learn to play.

After their own turns putting, the young golfers watched Melissa Smith, a program assis-

tant from the Child Development Center who accompanied the children, as she took her turn on the greens. Smith assists the Child and Youth Services staff at Hunter with on-going camps when necessary.

The golf camp is one of several at Hunter and Fort Stewart, sponsored by SKIES — School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills — instructional camps with the Child/Youth Center program.

"Our partnership with CYS has been resurrected," said McArthur, who praised the initiative to teach children the skill of golf, something they haven't done together in a while.

Leslie Ragel, the SKIES instructional program specialist with Child and Youth Services agrees with the renewed golf initiative and is pleased with the SKIES camps overall.

"Kids get a lot more in the SKIES program than they do on field trips with a summer program," said Ragel. "These camps teach skills."

She said upcoming Hunter camps include basketball and gymnas-

tics, scheduled July 23 – 26, and they still have openings.

SKIES camps have received praise from parents said Ragel, even though the sports camps require an additional physical to participate.

"Kids need a positive disruption while parents are deployed," said Ragel. "Some dads on R and R (rest and relaxation) have joined us while they're home. One child brought me a rose at a bowling and roller skating event at Fort Stewart recently. She wanted to express her thanks for having the event."

Ragel wants to offer Hunter children the same classes as Fort Stewart. She's working on initiatives to do that soon.

"We've already got dance and Tae Kwon Do at Hunter," she said. "We're hoping to get horseback riding lessons and possibly piano lessons there soon."

If you would like to know more about SKIES classes at Fort Stewart or Hunter Army Airfield, contact Leslie Ragel at 767-6071.



Nancy Gould

Tommie McArthur, Hunter Golf Course manager and golf professional, coaches seven-year-old Celestino Perez on the green on July 16 at the SKIES golf camp at Hunter Golf Course.

Stewart-Hunter athletes strive for victory



Special to the Frontline

It was a weekend for sports at Fort Stewart - Hunter Army Airfield as teams took the the softball fields and racquetball courts for intramural competitions.

Newman Fitness Center hosted a racquetball tournament July 14 with competition in three categories.

Joe Yawrick, won the Men's Open Division with Larenazo Fleming taking second. Larry Will took first in the Men's "B" Division with Mike Meis taking second.

The Men's Senior Division was won by Hector Alejandro as Christopher Nguyen took second. In the last category, Tony Sameatu won first place and Jose Morales took second.

In addition, the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosted a softball marathon as a prelude to the upcoming softball championships.

In the marathon, six teams started playing July 13

Nondice Powell

Soldiers from 10th Transportation Company battle Soldiers from A Co., 224 Military Intelligence July 6, as they prepare for the Intramural Championship.

at 10 p.m. and played all night and into the early morning hours with the last game starting at 8 a.m. July 14.

The teams that participated in the marathon were D Co., 3rd Battalion, 3rd Aviation; 4th Battalion, 3rd Brigade Troops Battalion; Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment; 224th Military Intelligence Battalion; 632nd Maintenance Company; and OutKast a civilian team from Griffin contracting.

In the end, 4/64 Armor won the day with five wins, and one loss and OutKast took second with four wins and two losses.

Sports continued throughout the week as teams came out swinging on the softball fields to maneuver for the final championship to be played at Field Three, tonight at 7 p.m., across from the post office.

For more information, call the Fort Stewart sports office at 767-9795.

Soldier wins Pan Am Games gold medal in 10-meter air rifle

Tim Hipps
FMWRC Public Affairs

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil – Two-time Olympian Sgt. 1st Class Jason Parker won a gold medal in the men's 10-meter air rifle event July 15 in XV Pan American Games Rio 2007 at the Deodoro Sports Complex.

Parker tallied a Pan Am Games record 695.9 points, eclipsing the mark of 692.5 set by Canada's Angel Valarte at the 2003 Pan Am Games in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Matt Rawlings of Wharton, Texas, won the silver medal with 694.2 points. Mexico's Jose Luis Elias

Orozco took the bronze with a 690.9 total.

The U.S. teammates were tied with a Pan Am Games record 594 points after the qualification rounds. Parker prevailed over Rawlings in the 10-shot finals, 101.8-100.2.

Parker, 33, a 10-year Army veteran

from Omaha, Neb., is one of the most highly decorated international rifle shooters with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Ga. His victory is a significant step along the road to Beijing, China, for the 2008 Olympic Games.

"It's great to have a win here at the Pan American Games," Parker said. "This is a very prestigious event with an Olympic-style atmosphere. It is a tough competition and we use it to get ready for the Olympics."

"This whole spring was geared towards Beijing. The last 18 months (prior to the Olympics) are always about the final touches because you can't be going into next season still looking for answers. You have to be performing by next season so you can get your peak goal at the Olympic Games."

With Team USA's two Olympic quota slots already secured for the event, Parker was relaxed and focused throughout the competition here.

"It was kind of an up-and-down type of competition," he said. "I started off really, really strong, and the middle and later parts of it wasn't bad, but it wasn't great."

Parker closed with shots of 10.5, 10.4, 10.4, 10.3, 10.7 and 10.4.

"My last six shots were really good," he said. "They saved it for me."

Parker's recent training has been focused on the 50-meter rifle 3-position event, scheduled for July 19.

"The scores are still there in air gun; I know I can shoot them," he explained. "But I've been spending a little more time on the small board. That's where I can see all my effort going right now. I feel real confident of walking out of here with two gold medals."

Parker enlisted in the Army in January 1997. After completing Basic and Infantry Training, he was assigned to USAMU in April 1997.

Ten years later, he's a Pan Am Games champion.

Along the way, Parker was selected as USA Shooting's 2003 Male Rifle Shooter of the Year. In 2002, he was a world champion and World Cup gold medalist. In both 2001 and 2002, he was named the Military Marksmanship Unit's Soldier of the Year, and in 2001 he was named Army Athlete of the Year.

"I want to say thanks to my Family and the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit," Parker concluded. "Without them, I wouldn't be able to do any of this."



Tim Hipps

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Parker (center) of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit in Fort Benning, Ga., wins a gold medal in the 10-meter air rifle event July 15 at XV Pan American Games Rio 2007 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Parker is flanked by silver medalist Matt Rawlings (left) of Wharton, Texas, and bronze medalist Roberto Jose Elias Orozco (right) of Mexico.

Troops support Tiger Woods at AT&T National

Tim Hipps
FMWRC Public Affairs

BETHESDA, Md. – Spc. Carmel Louis-Jacques led a contingent of Soldiers who supported tournament host Tiger Woods' tribute to the military throughout the inaugural AT&T National PGA Tour event July 3-8 at Congressional Country Club.

"I had always dreamed of hosting an event like this one day, and here we are," Woods said following an elaborate opening ceremony July 4 that was heavily supported by the U.S. military. "It is unreal to have this kind of reception. It has given me chills already."

Spc. Louis-Jacques, an information technology specialist with the U.S. Army Human Resources Command in Alexandria, Va., took his Family along for an experience they may never forget.

His sons – Jonathan, 7, and Geoffrey, 10 – had their picture taken with Woods and former president George H.W. Bush on the Fourth of July at historic Congressional.

"My kids already are asking me if they can play golf," Louis-Jacques said. "They are very happy. No words can explain what Tiger has done."

"I've wanted to play golf since I was five," Jonathan chimed in. "Now that I've met Tiger Woods, I want to play even more."

"When Tiger gets older, he's going to have to have a replacement, so we're working on it," said Mirna Jacques-Louis, the boys' mother. "It's been very nice to see Tiger and all the others out here. Everybody is enjoying themselves and it's so peaceful. We want to thank him, too, for giving us to opportunity to come here for the military and their Families. I wish all of them could be here. This is wonderful."

The AT&T National, Tiger Woods Foundation and America Supports You teamed to issue 30,000 complimentary tickets for the tournament to active-duty military through the Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's ITT/ITR office at the Pentagon. America Supports You is a Department of Defense program that provides opportunities for citizens to show their support for the U.S. Armed Forces.

"My fellow Soldiers overseas will feel that they have some famous people encouraging them and thinking about them while they are over there," Louis-Jacques said. "Unfortunately, they could not make it here, but this should be a big morale booster for all of the Soldiers."

Louis-Jacques was the only Soldier to work the entire tournament in uniform. He was in charge of handling a 75-foot-long American flag that was unfurled by Soldiers and military Family members during the tournament's opening and closing ceremonies.

"Everybody has been saying: 'Thank you for your service,' even people who do not know anything about the military, and that definitely has been appreciated," Louis-Jacques said of his reception among golf enthusiasts. "All I knew about Tiger Woods before this week was that he was a famous star and a good golfer."

Louis-Jacques, a nine-year Army veteran from Haiti, also thanked Sgt. Gary Dykhuis for tasking him to work the tournament.

"We have had at least 50 people here each day in uniform, but today I think I'm the only one," Spc. Louis-Jacques said during the final day of the tournament. "For what Tiger Woods has done for us, I felt like it was the least that I could do."

Woods, likewise, appreciated the support of the troops and their Families.

Spc. Vicki Golding, the Army Family and MWR Command's 2006 Military Idol winner, sang the national anthem acappella during the tournament's opening ceremonies July 4. The U.S. Air Force Drill Team also performed.

"I'm just honored, thrilled and excited," Golding said. "Fourth of July, Tiger Woods, (former) president Bush – it's just surreal to me. I'm just a little girl from Brisbane, Australia. I didn't actually realize that Tiger had that military connection until just recently, so it all makes sense now. This whole day is just wonderful."

"This has got to be the biggest event I've performed at since I became the Military Idol."

Soldiers from the Wounded Warrior Project, a non-profit organization aimed at assisting the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces who have been severely injured during the War on Terrorism, and a group of Special Forces Soldiers from Fort Bragg, N.C., surrounded the tee box where military pageantry unfolded on America's 231st birthday just outside the nation's capital.

"To have some of the troops out this week has been touching to me because obviously that's how I grew up," said Woods, the son of a Soldier. "To have them out there supporting and watching, it just touches you because I know the commitment that it takes for them to do what they do, and to come out here and give their support to what we're trying to do, it is awfully special."

"For me, personally, I really wanted to see kids involved and I really wanted to see the military involved," continued Woods, who in 10 years has touched 10 million youths with his Tiger Woods Foundation, which delivers a family motto of "caring and sharing" to the rest of the world. "These are things that are near and dear to my heart. And also present it on a fantastic venue, and all three of those things came together."

Will Woods maintain the military's involvement in future tournaments?

"Always," he concluded with a look of determination seen only in the eye of a Tiger.



Tim Hipps

Spc. Carmel Louis-Jacques (front and center in uniform) of Army Human Resources Command in Alexandria, Va., supplies water to Soldiers and Family members who carried a 75-foot-long American flag during the closing ceremonies of the AT&T National July 8 at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md.

Hurricanes lose to reigning champs

Patty Leon
Coastal Courier

The Hinesville Hurricanes suffered a devastating loss to their division rivals, the Atlanta Prime, in the regular season home opener at Lewis Frasier Middle School July 14.

The game was a "wake up call" for the players, head coach James Sharp said. The local team fell to the two-

time reigning champions, 38-0.

"They are the defending champions and they came out with big bodies," Sharp said. "We are going to change up some of our strategies."

At the start of the first quarter, the Hurricanes turned the ball over on downs giving the Prime good field position. The Prime moved the ball and on fourth down it appeared the Hurricanes had stopped the Prime short of

the first down.

But the official spotted the ball and the Prime gained a new series of downs, much to the dismay of the fans and the coaches.

The Hurricane's defense held strong and Sumpter Ramsey broke up a possible touchdown pass on the Prime's third down attempt. The defense was able to keep the Prime out of the end zone for the entire first quarter.

However, the Prime had the ball deep in Canes territory for the start of the second quarter and on second down, they took the ball in for a score. The Prime then completed a two-point conversion making it an 8-0 game.

The Hurricanes offense struggled with the deep throws forcing a few interceptions, and the Prime took advantage by maintaining good field position throughout most of the game.

"We couldn't get the good field position like we wanted to. We held them the whole first quarter, but after that we made some mistakes and they had great field position," Sharp said.

Timothy Sapp made a touchdown saving tackle on the 22-yard line, but the Prime scored on the next play.

Ramsey broke up two more passes that would have been scores, but despite the impeccable performance by the defense and a blocked extra point, the Prime was up 26-0 to end the half.

The Hurricanes never stopped trying and many players played on both offense and defense. The offense began to open up the running game in the fourth quarter led by Joseph Matahao, with several runs going right up the middle of the Prime defense who was showing signs of fatigue.

In the end it was not enough to overpower the reigning champions who claimed their first win of this year's regular season (38-0).

"I'm not too concerned about this first loss," Sharp said.

"We will tighten up and be all right for the next one."



Patty Leon

James Sharp III (51) looks down at an Atlanta Prime player after he and his teammates knocked him to the ground at the Hurricanes regular season home opener, July 14.