



November 2011 – Tip of the Month

Preparing for the 5th Annual San Diego Junior Amateur or prepping for any “FEATURED” event that takes place a few months away.

And A Little Tournament Schedule Help -

When you set up a tournament schedule you should always have some “FEATURED” events on your schedule and also some learning/ throw-away events. A Featured event is a “MAJOR” in your eyes – like a Junior World Qualifier, the Farmers Qualifier, a World Championship Event, or Your Club Championship. A Throw-Away event is an event that you are using to test what you have been working on under competition and see if it works, then you adjust and make it even better, and take these skills and new shots to the “FEATURED EVENT”. This is a system used by the best players in the world at all levels and you need to start using it too. Examples of this are the event the week before the Masters now on the PGA Tour is set up just like the Masters – they make the greens very similar in speed and slope and it has become a proven training ground for Masters and more top players have realized this and now play. We started the “San Diego Junior Masters” 5 years ago to annually be held the week before the Junior World to be a tune up/ warm-up/ throw away event for Junior World – It has worked and now the World is catching on and doing the same every year to prep for Junior World, meanwhile the event has become a “FEATURED” event too.

How to Prep for a “FEATURED” Event?

- Practice Rounds to See What the Course is Like
 - Please see last month’s Tip
- Learn the characteristics of the course and the shots you will need to hit during that event and start working on it.
 - Example – Hole #1 on the Meadow 9 at Steele Canyon is a dogleg left with trees on the left off the tee that you have to curve the ball around them to hit the fairway and avoid water on the right.
 - You should be working on that shot shape now so you can start your “featured” event on a good note and make sure you have that shot in the bag come tournament time
 - Maybe there are multiple holes you need to hit fades off the tee, maybe the course is short and you will have a lot of wedges in. Whatever the characteristics are and the shots needed to play your best start working on them NOW so you are prepped and ready to play.
 - Maybe the greens are usually fast and break so you should be working hard on 3-8 foot breaking putts to develop better line and speed going into the event. Maybe there is a particular pitch shot that you will need at this course that you should start working on now.
 - Figure it out! Get it Done! Focus on your weaknesses. Prepare!
 - After the “Featured” Event is complete evaluate your prep, evaluate the event, and set up your system for the next one!

Good Luck – Prepared for you by Chris Smeal, PGA 619-339-2377