

# Zach's Event Makes a Difference

WRITTEN BY BOB OLIVER

The final tally of proceeds for the Zach Attacks Cancer Foundation golf event won't be known until all the receipts are tallied, but one thing is certain: the event was an overwhelming success.



Zachary Herr, the 13-year-old junior golfer from New Hope who had a lot of help from family and friends with the successful project, raised more than \$45,000 for the Fox Chase Cancer Center at his charity tournament at Jericho National Golf Club.

Zachary was presented a plaque at the awards dinner in recognition for his work spearheading the successful tournament that benefited such a worthy cause.

It has been a whirlwind year for young Zach. The seventh grade student has balanced school with family and his passion, golf. Along the way Zach and Friends generated a buzz around his tournament, which he hopes to be an annual event that could expand to helping other charitable causes.

"Wow, we did it," said a joyous Herr at the dinner following golf. "So many people helped support this great day. We helped a great cause, Fox Chase is an outstanding facility that helps a lot of people. It's so nice to have a way to give back to the facility."



Herr's mother, Cyndie, was diagnosed with colon cancer and has been treated at the Fox Chase Cancer Center. Cyndie was on hand, along with other volunteers from the Fox Chase Center, to help with the tournament, as was Zachary's father, Eric.

Zach's sister, Erica (left), is a strong young golfer in her own right, and participated in the event as a "Beat the Kid" part of the fund-raiser on the par-3 12<sup>th</sup> hole. There Erica took a shot on the par-3 and attempted to defeat tournament players, something she did on numerous occasions on the day. Erica, incidentally, finished ninth in the girls'11-14 age bracket in the International Junior Golf Tour's Tournament of Champions at Grand Cypress Resort near Orlando, Florida.

"My family, my Board of Directors, the representatives from Fox Chase and all the other people who helped deserve a lot of the credit for our success," said Zach. "This was a true team effort. I was so very lucky to have so many people willing to help this very good cause."



On the golf course the team of Mike Procaccino, Charlie Skorski and 2007 Jericho National men's club champion Rich Speranza (shown in photo on right with Zach Herr) claimed top honors after a 12-under-par 60 and match of cards playoff win over the team of Dave Buckwalter, Jack Buckwalter, Lou Weller and Brett Kendrig.

Third place went to the foursome of Dan Morrin, Willie Wang, Rich Frazer and Joe Warusz at 11-under-par 61.

The long drive winners were Brett Kendrig (men) and Suzie Voetsch (women), while the closest to the pin winners were Lori Hoppmann (2<sup>nd</sup> hole), Ed Fenton (5<sup>th</sup> hole) and Monika Poelzmann (15<sup>th</sup> hole).



Before the event noted instructor Dom DiJulia (on right, shown teaching) of the Dom DiJulia School of Golf at Jericho National gave a brief clinic and offered tips to many of the competitors on their golf game while they were warming up for the event. The teaching pro showed his short game prowess on the course, knocking four approach shots to tap-in birdie position. DiJulia has worked with hundreds of students of all ability levels, from amateurs like

Zach Herr to professionals like Langhorne's Christian Bartolacci (New England Golf Tour) and Washington Crossing's Jonathan Rusk (PGA Nationwide Tour).

"This is a great event and it was for a wonderful cause," explained DiJulia, named one of America's top instructors and a pro who has worked with Zach on his game since age 5. "The Z-Man (Zachary) is a fine young man and is dedicated to playing at a high level. He's wonderful to work with."

Zach Herr used the event as a practice day for Tuesday's Golf Association of Philadelphia Amateur Championship. There, competing with men more than twice his age, the 13-year-old carded rounds of 84 and 75 for a 159, missing the match play portion of the event by eight shots.

"This was a lot of work, and playing in the tournament today was a lot of fun. To have so many people coming out and helping the cause is wonderful," said Zach, who recently was named a finalist for the USGA - AJGA Presidents' Youth Leadership Award. . "Together we all have helped a wonderful cause."

Next up for Zachary are a pair of American Junior Golf Association events, as well as some other GAP and International Junior Golf Tour events. He will attempt to qualify for the USGA Junior Boys and other events as well.

For now, though, the youngster is basking in the knowledge that his Zach Attacks Cancer Tournament has done a whole lot of good and will benefit a great cause.