

HISTORY OF THE CENTENNIAL TUESDAY LEAGUE THROUGH 2020

In 2015, the Centennial Tuesday 9 Hole Golf League was formed by Don Tillar, the Centennial General Manager employed by Billy Casper Golf. The inaugural season was loosely run and far from ideal but it served as the start of what continues into 2021 as this summary is being written.

In 2016, responsibility for organizing the league was assumed by 4 of the 2015 players - Dan Miles, Paul Wolff, Andy Busler, and Chad Wilson stepped up to try and make it better.

Vince Young was the "League Champion" and top money winner. Ron Casso was the "League Handicap Champion" (somehow his game improved late in the season?)

In 2017, Dan and Paul continued as the "League Organizers". (Andy and Chad had taken on new jobs and were not playing as much golf at Centennial.)

A split season 2-man team handicapped match play format was adopted. Don Tillar & Paul Wolff won the 1st Half, Tom Fulton & Rob Holden won the 2nd Half.

In 2018, the City of Oak Ridge assumed day-to-day management of the course and allowed Dan and Paul to continue as the "League Organizers".

The Summer Season was 2-man teams, handicapped match play with the team of Tyler Donoghue & David Lynn finishing in 1st Place.

The Fall season was a weekly random draw for 2-man teams, net team total stroke weekly scoring in a "FedEx Cup" format, with Aaron Hensley as the winner.

The 2019 Summer Season of League Play was contested over 15 weeks of play from 4/30 through 8/6. Aaron Hensley stepped up to join Dan and Paul making it a trio of "League Organizers". Summer 2019 was also the first season where we had a website to post results using the League Manager software. We had 36 players competing as 2-man teams in handicapped match play format. Of the 36 players, 24 were returning from the 2018 league and 12 were new to the league. The Summer Season concluded with the top 8 teams in a Championship Playoff. The team of Jacob Carpenter and David Lynn took 1st place winning in the Championship Match over the team of Jud Hightower and Mossy Taylor who took the 2nd place prize. In the Consolation Match Dave Cahill and Paul Wolff took 3rd place defeating the team of Gale Wright and John Younker.

The 2019 Fall Season was 8/13 through 9/24 and the format was based on individual play in a FedEx Cup points scheme. We had 24 players participating in the Fall Season, all of whom played as a "regular" or as a "sub" during the 2019 Summer Season. Each week prize money was awarded to the top 3 low net scores and the cumulative season FedEx Cup points race paid to the top 3 players. In the season long FedEx Cup points race 1st place went to Ray Dobson with Aaron Hensley in 2nd and Paul Wolff in 3rd.

The 2020 Summer Season, our 6th year, will be remembered as the “Year of COVID” because the pandemic slowed our start and shortened the season to 10 weeks. For the first time in league history we reached our limit of 40 players competing as 2 man teams in a handicapped match play format. Summer 2020 was also the first season where we used the online live scoring capability of the League Manager software and changed up the summer format. In the previous season there was some luck involved as some teams didn’t face the stronger teams and seemed to make their way into the playoffs due to a perceived “weak schedule”. To overcome this shortcoming, the league was divided into 2 conferences, each conference with 2 divisions, each division with 5 teams playing a round-robin schedule of matches against each team in their conference during the 9 weeks of the “Regular Season”. Teams were placed into the 4 divisions through a random drawing. Division winners got a share of the prize money and were seeded in an 8 team “Playoff” along with 2 wild card teams from each conference. The “Playoff” took place of the final Tuesday of the season and it was a hit! Division winners and wild card teams were determined and seeded based on points won during the Regular Season. Teams that didn’t get into The Playoff took it as an opportunity to come out and follow along on the course while enjoying a cold beverage. Division winners faced wild card teams in Round 1 of the playoffs – a 3-hole match based on the team best net ball contested on holes 1,2, and 3. Winners in Round 1 advanced to Round 2 of the playoffs – a 3-hole match contested on holes 4,5, and 6. Winners in Round 3 advanced to the Final Round – a 3-hole match contested on holes 7,8, and 9. Division winners were Vinny Abbott & Todd McGill, Andrew Smith & Mark Haste, Leonard Sterling & Shaun Parton, and Tom Fulton & Rob Holden. The wildcard team of Ray Goepfrich & Sean Verley were the eventual 1st Place winners in the Playoff with the wildcard team of Ray Dobson & Brad Huddleston taking 2nd Place.

The 2020 Fall Season was a 9 week series where the format was the same as we played in fall 2019, i.e., individual play with a FedEx Cup points scheme based on net score. We had 34 players participating in the Fall Season, some of whom played as a “regular” or as a “sub” during the Summer Season. Each week prize money was awarded to the top 3 low net scores and the cumulative season FedEx Cup points race paid prizes to the top 3 players. In the season long FedEx Cup points race 1st place went to Jason Young, with Des Mahoney in 2nd and Bob Rotar in 3rd.