

By Stephen Trendler



# Drama Prevails at the JAGA City Amateur

The Jacksonville Area Golf Association's City Amateur Championship never seems to lack excitement. Their 2009 event at The Palencia Country Club continued the tradition of holding your breath until the last putt goes in...or in this case...witnessing a dramatic chip in for a double bogey.

Fresh off his recent victory at the Florida Open, defending champion Tommy Murray was the heavy favorite having smoked the competition in Vero Beach the previous week. But the first round leader was 16 year old Thomas Stewart who plays on the Bartram Trail High School golf team. Stewart shot a 3 under 69 to take an early lead and to send a message to Murray and the other Jacksonville big guns. A group of 71's followed Stewart including Jacksonville University's Bobby Fredeking, Tommy Murray, Christophe Bray and Duke Butler IV. Joel Dahlenburg (also from the Bartram Trail gang and headed to

lead. UNF's Major Forbess answered the call firing a 67 (after recently shooting 65 in the final round of the Florida Open), Dahlenburg shot 69 and South Hampton's senior spokesman, David Anthony, posted a 71. At the end of day 2, Forbess looked like the player with the hottest hand while sharing the lead with Dahlenburg.

Duke Butler IV rose to the top and delivered a hot hand of his own in the third round. Finding his putting game that seemed to have hidden from him recently, DB IV shot a 4 under 68 to take the lead while Forbess' score ballooned to 73 to lose the lead. First round leader Thomas Stewart ran out of gas posting 76-77 in his 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> rounds.

Butler continued on his roll in the final day. Although Dahlenburg took the lead for a short time, it went south on the 11<sup>th</sup> hole followed by a triple bogey on #13. Fredeking was laying low in the previous 2 rounds, but got hot and made a lot of noise on Day 4 putting heat on Butler. Earlier on Day 4, Thomas

Stewart refueled his hot hand from the first round and posted a 68.

With Fredeking breathing down his neck all day, Butler was pressured to



JAGA Vice President Bob Streightiff presents the trophy to Duke Butler IV

hang in until the finish to take home the trophy. All looked well for him until #16. DB IV pushed his 2<sup>nd</sup> shot deep into the palmettos. After struggling to get near the green with ensuing shots for survival, the unthinkable happened. As if the palmetto excursion wasn't bad enough, Butler dead skulled a pitch over the green for his 5<sup>th</sup> shot on the par 4 and it looked like a total implosion. (Fredeking was probably licking his chops.) Character and guts kicked in as Butler chipped in for a remarkable double bogey while others would have passed out just thinking about what could have happened. Butler held off Fredeking's final round 68 to take the JAGA City Amateur trophy home with a one stroke victory. 🏌️



Long time sponsors of the event, Miles and Marty King watch the award ceremony

Flagler) posted a 72.

With Tommy Murray threatening, Day 2 was moving day for the others and to take note of Murray's presence near the

## Final Top 5 Standings

Duke Butler IV	71-74-68-72	285
Bobby Fredeking	71-73-74-68	286
Joel Dahlenburg	72-69-74-73	288
Thomas Stewart	69-76-77-68	290
Major Forbess	74-67-73-76	290