

Local Golfer Records Top Three Finish At Junior Golf Tournament

By Kevin D. Shallat



Paul Griessel, age 8, of Lafayette (left) stands with Eric Angeles of Martinez and Dominic Solomone of Pacheco at the Buchanan Fields Summer Junior Golf Tournament in Concord

Photo by Jennifer Griessel

Paul Griessel, age 8, of Lafayette not only competed against golfers from all over the East Bay at the Buchanan Fields Summer Junior Golf Tournament in Concord, Aug. 13, but he managed to finish tied for second place in the boys nine and under age group, despite the fact that he is a year younger than many of the other golfers. Griessel finished second with a score of 41 for nine holes.

"I usually have a fade, but this day I got my swing right and the balls were going straight," he said. His best score recorded this summer was a 34 at Grayson Woods Golf Course in Pleasant Hill. You would think that at age 8 he was just be-

ginning his golf career, but Griessel has been playing for nearly five years and has already put together an impressive resume. In 2005 he was the Saratoga Country Club little junior champion in the seven and under age group.

During Griessel's short but successful career, he has had an array of great teachers and mentors along the way. His interest in the game began around five years ago when his father brought home John Daly's video, "Grip It and Rip It." After seeing that video, Griessel would tell his father, "I want to play, I want to play." Griessel still takes direction from his father and John Daly, but has since moved on to two new coaches: Kelly Brown and Jenny Park-Choi. Park-Choi is an LPGA member who used to compete in the LPGA tour.

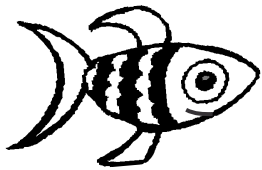
When talking with Griessel it is impossible not to notice the passion and excitement he holds for the game of golf. Griessel's eyes lit up when asked what he likes about golf. "You're active and you get to whack away at a little ball."

His favorite player is, of course, Tiger Woods, but not because he makes millions of dollars or hits the ball 300 yards, but because he has won so many trophies.

In the future Griessel plans to play golf for Stanford or Cal, and maybe one day play on the PGA tour. For now, though, he will continue to play golf and attend school at Saklan Valley School in Moraga. Griessel's advice to other young kids who want to play golf is simple, "Keep on trying and you'll become really good."

Sherman Swim School *skills for life*

Since 1961



Available
to rent for
parties!

swimming:

infants thru adults
private & semi-private
classes in 90° water

diving:

beginning thru advanced

sessions begin every 3 weeks

M-W-F or T-Th • day and evening classes

Voted "Family Favorite" by the Bay Area Parent Magazine



925-283-2100

1075 Carol Lane • Lafayette (off Mt. Diablo)
www.shermanswim.com

ESPINOZA'S

Custom Upholstery • Quality Labor Since 1969

Restoration Services for

Sofa • Loveseat • Chairs

French or Victorian Antiques
Wood Repair • Spring Retie
Cushion Refill Service
Dining Chair(s)



Pick-up or delivery

3655 Foothill Blvd • Oakland, CA 94601

510-535-9807 • cell 510-228-5789