

Sunday Article:

Golfer Jason Ball rolls to 3rd title at Dos Amigos Men's Partnership

Bill Nance Special to the Standard-Times
Sunday, August 16, 2009

Seven of the eight teams in the championship flight at the Fifth Annual San Angelo Pan-American Golf Association's Dos Amigos men's partnership tournament entered Sunday's final round within two shots of the lead.

At the end of the day Jason Ball had his three-peat as he and his partner Jack Graves shot an eight-under par 64 to nose out a pair of teams by a single stroke and claim the first prize money. Ball had won the previous two Dos Amigos title playing with Brandon Sanders.

"I think Jason could win with a monkey for a partner," Graves said. "He made six birdies today, that helped just a little bit. ... I was pretty much a cheerleader today. All I needed were some pompoms."

"We played well for two days," Ball said. "We had one hole where we had a little struggle but Jack did a great job to get up and down to save par for us.

"I have to give props to the Pan-Am, they run a great tournament," Ball added. "I've played in this for five years now and it gets better every time. The field seems to get better every time; it is just some great competition."

Ramiro Rodriquez and Anthony Estroga trailed by a single stroke as they played their final hole. Estroga needed to drop a birdie putt to tie for the title but his six-footer came up short. They tied for the second spot with Gilbert Velez and Mickey Scott, both teams in at 131. First round leaders Chris Pena and Roger Rodriquez had issues Sunday enroute to a 75 and a two-day total of 139.

The Pan-American Golf Association hopes to see further growth in the still fairly new event. "We've grown it every year and it just seems to be getting better and better," Pan-Am president Marc Gonzalez said. "We had to turn some teams away this year.

"Next year we hope to be able to be at a point where we can shut the course down and play morning and afternoon groups. You have to have the numbers to do that and we are getting close."

The economic impact also continues to grow.

"We had 17 teams from out of town this year," Gonzalez said. "We had teams from Temple, Forth Worth, Irving, pretty much all over the state. Those guys stay in hotels, eat in restaurants, buy gas; they spend money in San Angelo that wouldn't be being spent here if they didn't come to play in this.

"Some of our members who play tournaments away from San Angelo have done an outstanding job for us in spreading the word and promoting this tournament," Gonzalez said.

"I have hopes that we can grow this to a three-day event down the road," the association president said. "We have lots going for us, a great golf course, good competition and we pay prize money not pro-shop credit like most events. That is very appealing to players."

Saturday Article:

Wind comes into play at Dos Amigos tourney

BILL NANCE Special to the Standard-Times
Saturday, August 15, 2009

Teams playing in the first round of the fifth annual San Angelo Pan-American Golf Association's Dos Amigos men's partnership tournament Saturday at Quicksand Golf Course had to deal with plenty of wind.

As the first groups went off at 8 a.m. the breeze was "comfortable."

By the time the championship flight found their way to the tee box at No. 1, it had picked up significantly. As the last groups were teeing off, the check-in canopy was resembling a tumble weed as it headed north with the wind, coming to rest on the side of a delivery truck bringing ice to the course.

Max Velez was in one of the earlier groups.

"The first nine holes, it was nice, the breeze made it very comfortable," Velez said. "But right about the time we made the turn it really picked up. That second nine that wind was horrible, just horrible."

Gabe Gonzalez went out just before the wind came on in force and felt it's wrath.

"It was rough, that wind was a killer," Gonzalez said. "If the wind is consistent you can deal with it but there were so many gusts that came up just as you'd swing. It cost me distance on several holes."

The championship flight dealt with the wind early but the gusts had died down fairly early into their round.

It showed in the scores.

Mickey Scott and Gilbert Velez carded a six-under 66 and had a hot streak in the middle of their round. They carded six birdies between the seventh and 14th holes and sandwiched a pair of pars in there as well.

"We had a good team effort," Velez said. "Mickey was driving the ball well and I seemed to hit the second shot better. Then he'd get us close and I'd finish it. It was the true meaning of scramble for us out there today."

Two-time defending champion Jason Ball, playing with Jack Graves, also came in at six-under 66.

"Playing from those back tees and with the wind the way it was it made the course very tough today," Ball said.

Ball and Graves finished strong with birdies at 14, 15 and 18.

Chris Pena and Roger Rodriguez lead the championship flight with a 64. The teams of Ramiro Rodriguez and Anthony Estroga as well as Gilbert Mojica and Steve Sustatia are a shot back at 65. Ball and Graves, Velez and Scott, Johnny Perez Sr. and Cory Adams as well as Albert Trevino Sr. and Joe Arzate Jr. are all knotted up at 66. Gilbert Gallegos and Mickey Russell bring up the rear at 69 after logging bogeys at 16 and 17.

"It's right there but somebody is going to have to go out and get it," Gilbert Velez said.

Mark Soto and Duane Poss hot a two-shot lead in the President's fight having carded a 65. Joe Coronado and Murray Carson, with Lupe Trevino and Cody Freeman sit in a tie for second at 67