

# 2013 Junior Island Amateur Championships



Use the following links to [DOWNLOAD](#) the **Final Results \* Course Stats**

Hole-by-Hole Scoring was available thanks to the USGA-TPP Program

Click on the following links to view scores the following categories: **BOYS 18 & Under // GIRLS 18 & Under**

**RD. 3 RECAP News Article**  
**Toro & Torres repeat as Junior Champions**  
*By Alberto C. Medina - PRGA Staff Writer*



**RIO GRANDE, PR (Wednesday, March 27, 2013)** - Sebastián Toro closed with the best round of the tournament in the Boys' division, María F. Torres shot the only score under par in the event, and both players defended their titles as Puerto Rico's junior national champions on Wednesday at the conclusion of the PRGA Junior Island Championship. Toro and Torres both saved their best golf for last, though under very different circumstances. Toro began the final round in second place, just one stroke off the lead, but part of a pack of players who were very close behind second-round leader José Cardona. Cardona stumbled a bit on Wednesday, shooting a 77 (+6), while Toro carded a 72 to finish at +14 and win the Hank James Trophy for the second consecutive year. Cardona finished second at +18, while 14-year-old Kenneth Martínez, playing with the 'big boys', finished third at +19.

*"They were 18 very competitive holes,"* said the champion. *"I really enjoyed it because there were some very tense moments."*

The 17-year-old Toro shared that he understands the importance of winning the national championship on multiple occasions, like Eduardito Figueroa, Wilfredo Morales and Rafael Campos did before him. "It means a lot to me and to my family, that has always supported me," he said. "It means a lot to me to have my name on that trophy, along with the names (of other players) I admire."

On the other hand, Torres enjoyed a 12-stroke lead after the first two days of play and only widened her margin of victory by shooting a final-round 70 (-1). Torres won the event at +2; Yudika Rodríguez and Gabriela Santini both shot 83 on Wednesday to take second and third place with total scores of +27 and +28, respectively.

With this win, Torres becomes the first Puerto Rican golfer, male or female, to win the Junior Island Championship on four occasions, thus wrapping up an extraordinary 'career' with the PRGA's Junior Program. "For me, having this record is a real accomplishment," said Torres. "It was a real thrill to win the Island (Championship) for a fourth time and finish my time as a PRGA junior with a win."

Torres, a talented player with vast international experience, will be off to play at the University of Florida's prestigious golf program later this year. She credits tournaments like this and the Junior Program in general with helping her get this far.

"It has meant a lot. It has allowed me to develop in this sport, which is what I love," she said. "I hope the girls who are staying will keep on going."

Though Toro and Torres become junior national champions by virtue of winning the 18 & under categories, there was plenty of exciting action in the other age divisions.

Among the 15 & under boys, Leslie Rivera shot a closing-round 79 to finish at +26 and take home first place. He beat out Josaphet Durán

(+31) and José Pedraza (+33). The Boys 13 & under division had the only sudden death action of the tournament; after Melvin Morales and Ian Aldarondo finished tied at +25, Morales won the one-hole playoff on the 18th hole.

Diego Saavedra took first place among the 11 & under boys, while Fabián Colón did the same in the 9 & under division.

Among the girls, Diana Vélez closed with a 76 on Wednesday to complete a solid performance in the 15 & under category with a total of +14. Her sister, Alexandra, finished second. Valeria Pacheco was the only Girls 13 & under participant, but she had the second-best total score of the entire tournament after finishing with a 78, for a total of +13.



Camila Robles beat out Valeria Jiménez in the 11 & under group, while Darianys Guzmán was unchallenged in 9 & under.

### **Cidras Signs Letter of Intent**

Though she finished in sixth and last place in her division at the tournament, Gabriela Cidras still had a good day on Wednesday after signing a letter of intent to play college golf at St. Andrews University in North Carolina.

St. Andrews recruiter Randy Hernández was on hand to formally offer Cidras a spot on the team and a substantial scholarship for her university studies. "We had been following her for a while; we saw she had good scores, a good attitude on the course, and her teammates like her," he said. "I think she's going to do very well with us, both on the course and in school."

Francisco Rivera, the PRGA's Tournament Director who also works trying to find opportunities for local young golfers in American colleges, was also key in helping Cidras receive this opportunity.

### **RD. 2 RECAP News Article**

### **Exciting Battle for the 2013 Junior Island Champion Title**

*By Alberto C. Medina - PRGA Staff Writer*



**(Tuesday, March 26, 2013)** The battle to take home the Hank James Memorial Trophy and become Puerto Rico's new junior national champion got even tighter on Tuesday, thanks to an exciting second day of play that saw José Cardona take the lead while a handful of competitors are close behind, heading into the third and final round of the PRGA Junior Island Championship.

Cardona, who had the best round of the day among the Boys, shooting a 75 (+4) on the Ocean Course at Wyndham Río Mar Golf Club.

Cardona, who was in fourth place after the first round, took over the top spot and is now at +12. Close behind are the defending champ, Sebastián Toro (+13); first-round leader, Daniel Cabán (+14); and Kenneth Martínez (+15), who at just 14 years old is competing for the junior national championship by playing in the 18 & under division.

Meanwhile, on the Girls' side, two-time defending champion María Torres had the best round of any competitor on Tuesday with a 72 (+1), and now has a seemingly insurmountable lead. The talented and experience 18-year-old golfer now has a total of +3; her closest rivals, Yudika Rodríguez and Gabriela Santini, both shot a second-round 78 and are at +15 and +16, respectively.

In the Boys' 15 & under, leader Leslie Rivera (+18) is trying to hold off Josaphet Durán (+22) and José Pedraza (+25). Ian Aldarondo leads the 13 & under boys with a +16, while Melvin Morales (+18) is close behind in second place.

In the Boys 11 & under category, Diego Saavedra shot an outstanding 38 (+3) over nine holes, while Fabián Colón leads the 9 & under group at +5.

Among the girls, Diana Vélez had the second-best round of any player on the course with a 74, and now has a total of +10 and a sizable lead in the 15 & under division. Talented 13-year-old Valeria Pacheco, the



only competitor in her category, kept showing off her skills with a second-round 75 that placed her total at +6. Camila Robles leads the duo of 11 & under girls with a 48 (+13) over nine holes, while young Darianys Guzmán (9 & under) shot a 57.

The action wraps up on Wednesday, when the youngest golfers will play their final nine holes, while the rest of the field will play their third and final round to decide the winner of each category and crown the new junior national champions.

-----  
**RD. 1 RECAP News Article**  
**Cabán and Torres holds First-Round Lead**

*By Alberto C. Medina - PRGA Staff Writer*



**(Monday, March 24, 2013)** On a sunny Easter-week Monday, 16-year old Daniel Cabán shot a 75 (+4) on Monday at Wyndham Río Mar's Ocean Course to take the lead after the first round of the Boys 18 & under category at the PRGA Junior Island Championship.

On a tough day for the young golfers that produced a lot of high scores, Cabán managed a solid round to take a two-stroke lead after the first of three days of play. Andrew Báez shot a 77 and is currently in second place, while defending champion Sebastián Toro is in third after carding a 78.

In the 18 & under Girls division, two-time defending champ María F. Torres began her quest for a third straight trophy with a 73 (+2).

Torres was on her way to having an even better round after consecutive birdies to start the back nine, but a double-bogey on 16 cost her a chance at an even par round. Paola Díaz and Yudika Rodríguez are in second and third place after carding 78 and 79, respectively.

The winners of these 18 & under categories will be Puerto Rico's junior national champions.

One of the big surprises of the day was Valeria Pacheco, who at just 13 years old, matched Torres' round of 73. Pacheco, who lives in South Florida and has been hailed as one of the top players in her age group in that area, also took advantage of the back nine, where she had three birdies against just one bogey.

Diana Vélez (77) leads the trio of girls competing in the 15 & under division.

Among the boys, Leslie Rivera also shot 77 to take the lead in that same age group, followed by José Pedraza (81). Among the 13 & under boys, Ian Aldarondo carded a 79 (+8) and has a one shot lead over Melvin Morales, who shot 80.

The second of three rounds for these categories will begin early Tuesday, when the 9 & under and 13 & under boys and girls will also tee it up for the first of their two rounds.

Click on the following links to view [COMPLETE RESULTS](#) // [COURSE STATS](#)

-----  
**PREVIEW**

**ANNUAL JUNIOR ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIP to tee-off at Rio Mar**

*By Alberto C. Medina - PRGA Staff Writer (Saturday, March 23, 2013)*

The PRGA Junior Island Championship, which will crown Puerto Rico's junior national champs, begins Monday at the Wyndham Río Mar Golf Club - Ocean Course, in Río Grande.



Over 60 young golfers will compete in a total of 12 categories, divided

by age and gender. The 13 & under, 15 & under, and 18 & under players will compete throughout 54 holes between Monday and Wednesday, while the youngest players (9 & under and 11 & under) will go 36 holes on the final two days.

The winners, male and female, of the 18 & under category will be Puerto Rico's new junior national champions. Sebastián Toro and María F. Torres will be on hand to defend their trophies; in fact, Torres will be looking for her third-consecutive victory in this event.

The Junior Island Championship has been held since 1985 for boys and 1994 for girls. The best Puerto Rican golfers of the last few decades have won this event: from Miguel Suárez, Wilfredo Morales, and Rafael Campos, to Janice Olivencia, Kyle Roig, and Torres, who at 18 is already the top female golfer on the Island.

***(View Records - Boys // Girls)***

Beyond its historic value, the tournament holds great importance for the participating players and for the PRGA, since it's the main and final event of its Junior Program. *"The junior season ends with this event,"* said PRGA Executive Director Julio Soto. *"Then we start picking our national teams because the international events begin."*

According to Soto, while the PRGA takes into account other factors, it assigns great value to this national championship when it comes to picking players who will represent Puerto Rico. *"The Championship definitely has a lot of weight because it's the premier event of our season and it's an open, so anyone can come play,"* he said. *"That makes the field more competitive, and we take that into account and make the course pretty difficult."* Back in 2004 and while hosting its 50th anniversary, the PRGA along with Rio Mar courses hosted the world's best amateurs during the World Amateur Team Championships organized by the International Golf Federation (IGF).

Indeed, this year's Championship will host two talented young players from outside Puerto Rico who will bring their high level of play to Río Mar. Charlie Denvir, a promising Irish golfer whose mother is Puerto Rican, will play in the boys' 13 & under division. Among the girls, in that same age group, Florida-based Valeria Pacheco will tee it up. Pacheco has recently won numerous tournaments and recognition as one of South Florida's top golfers in her age group.

Because of its quality and level of competitiveness, the Junior Island Championship is recognized by none other than the R&A, which maintains the official amateur rankings. *"The World Amateur Golf Ranking assigns points based on a player's performance in this event,"* said Soto. *"The fact that the event enjoys recognition from a worldwide organization also gives it great importance."*

The action begins early Monday morning in Río Mar.