

RBC 56th Caribbean Amateur Golf Championships



Puerto Rico wins the Arthur Ziadie Trophy as the Best Overall Team in the Caribbean

by Alberto C. Medina - PRGA Staff Writer

FINAL

(Saturday, August 11th 2012) - The Puerto Rican National Team finished with a strong final round at the **RBC 56th Caribbean Amateur Golf Championships**, and though they're coming home without trophies in any individual category, they affirmed their status as a complete and consistent team by winning the **Arthur Ziadie Trophy** for the best overall country. **(SCROLL DOWN FOR RESULTS PER CATEGORY)**



Puerto Rico finished with 141 points in the final standings, far ahead of second-place Trinidad & Tobago, which totaled 117. No Puerto Rican squad finished lower than third at the Championships, with all but the Hoerman Cup team taking second place in their division. Puerto Rico had the best round of the day in the Hoerman Cup at +22, and surged to within nine strokes of first place, but was just too far behind and finished in third place with a total of +59. The OECS took the victory at +50 in an upset over the Dominican Republic (+55), which suffered a stunning collapse after leading from the first day until the final holes.

"It was a difficult week but the team never stopped trying," said former

player and now coach Wilfredo Morales about Puerto Rico's performance. ***"Luck wasn't on our side and there were some holes that were particularly cruel to us, like the 18th; we probably lost every category on the 18th,"*** said Morales about what was indeed, as course statistics showed, one of the toughest holes at Royal St. Kitts.

Assisted by professional golfer and National Head Coach Dean Spriddle along with Morales as his assistant, there were also some encouraging individual performances among the Hoerman Cup squad, particularly Robert Calvesbert, who finished third in the individual leaderboard at +8, and National Team-newcomer Jerónimo Esteve, who placed sixth with a total score of +15.

"I think Jerónimo Esteve is a player who's going to help us a lot in the future. He's a player who knows his game, knows his swing, he's a gentleman on the course and goes about his business very competitively and seriously," said Morales.



Puerto Rico also had an individual standout in María Torres, who shot a final-round 77 to finish at +7 for the tournament: by far the best of the female category. Torres led a very young Puerto Rican ladies' squad to a solid second-place, just seven strokes behind defending champion Trinidad & Tobago.

"María keeps demonstrating that she has the potential to go very far," said Morales about Torres, who will soon begin her NCAA career at the University of Florida.

The Mid-Amateur duo of Raúl Rivera and Felipe 'Pipe' Colón also put together a standout performance all through the tournament. The Puerto Ricans shot +1 on Saturday and finished at -6, which might have been good enough to win on any other week, but it only earned them a second-place tie with Jamaica behind a dominant Dominican Republic tandem that finished at an impressive -12.



Puerto Rico also finished tied for second in the Senior division, the most hotly-contested competition of the entire Championships, with only eight strokes separating first and seventh place. Mario Carbia and Fernando Díaz shot 77 in the fourth round and finished tied with Barbados and Jamaica at +14, two strokes behind the winners from Bahamas.

Finally, Super Seniors Carlos Matos and Elvin González, Sr., who had seen their 36-stroke lead vanish after a magnificent first round from Trinidad & Tobago, couldn't make up the disadvantage despite having Saturday's best round at +2. The Puerto Ricans finished in second place, three strokes back.

All in all, it was a successful event in which the entire Caribbean came together and demonstrated the high-quality golf being played throughout the region. On another positive note, ***Puerto Rico accumulated the largest amount of birdies during the final round*** which resulted in a special donation on behalf of the presenting sponsor ***RBC Royal Bank*** towards a local charity of our choice.

"Every country is really improving," said Morales. ***"The Dominican Republic has been improving year after year. We have an OECS team that nobody expected this kind of performance from them; they're really improving. And that's good, because it tells us that we can't just stand pat, we have to keep looking and opening doors to new players, practicing more and improving more."*** - he concluded.

Many Thanks to Cutter & Buck, American Airlines, Titleist, DIAGEO, Compañía Cervecería de Puerto Rico, and the Puerto Rico Open for your contributions and support to help our teams participate from this year's championships.

(Photo Gallery on Facebook)



Soild third-round showing puts Puerto Rico in the hunt for multiple trophies

by Alberto C. Medina - PRGA Staff Writer
(Day 3)

(Friday, August 10th 2012) - The Puerto Rican National Team enjoyed another solid day of play on Friday which placed each squad in the top-3 of its category and has most of them in the hunt for first place heading into the fourth and final round on Saturday.

In fact, and unfortunately for Puerto Rican fans, the Hoerman Cup Team is the only one with a slim chance to win it all. The squad held steady in third place with a group score of +15 that placed them at +37 for the tournament, a considerable 19 strokes from leader Dominican Republic, which stands at +18 after another solid performance.

The Ladies, however, fared much better, led by an excellent round of 69 from **María Torres** (*top picture*). Torres, who at +1 has a seven-stroke lead over Monifa Sealy in the race for the individual women's title, combined with Paola Robles to produce a score of +5 on the day and get a little closer to Trinidad & Tobago, which shot +8 but still leads the fight for the George Teale trophy by six strokes.



Mid-Amateurs **Felipe 'Pipe' Colón and Raúl Rivera** (pictured left) followed up their second-round 68 with an outstanding 67 on Friday, the best score of the day in the Ramón Báez category. However, that competition has been so hotly contested that, even with those fantastic scores, Puerto Rico is still in third place at -7, one stroke behind Jamaica and four back of the Dominican Republic, which has dominated so far and stands at -11 after 54-holes.

The Seniors also made a charge in a hotly-contested category. Mario Carbia and Fernando Díaz shot their second-straight 72 and propelled themselves to second place at +8, just three strokes behind the leader, Bahamas.

Surprisingly, it was the always-steady Super Senior tandem of Elvin González, Sr., and Carlos Matos that 'stumbled' in the third round, though their drop to second place was less a product of their +2 score than of the impressive -5 shot by the team from Trinidad & Tobago. Still, only five strokes separates both squads, which should make for another exciting finish in the final round.

With Puerto Rico vying for several titles, and a strong candidate for the Arthur Ziadie trophy to the overall best performer, Saturday should feature can't miss action at Royal St. Kitts Golf Club.

(Photo Gallery on Facebook)



Overall improvement for Puerto Rico during second round at CAGC

by Alberto C. Medina - PRGA Staff Writer

(Day 2)

(Thursday, August 9th 2012) - Puerto Rico had a solid performance across the board on Thursday, with nearly every team improving on its first-round score and staying in the hunt after 36 holes at the **RBC 56th Caribbean Amateur Golf Championships**.



The Hoerman Cup team saw the biggest improvement after a disappointing +17 on the first day. Led by **Robert Calvesbert's** 70 (-1) *(pictured on the right)*, Puerto Rico finished the round with a total score of 289 and moved up to third place, now 13 strokes behind leader Dominican Republic. The host OECS team, which shot a best-of-the-day +4, is close behind in second place.

The Puerto Rican female team also had an improved outing, with María torres (+2) and Yudika Rodríguez (+5) combining to shoot 149 and stay in the hunt for the George Teale Trophy. Trinidad and Tobago still holds the lead, however, after an inspired second-round 69 from Monifa Sealy which helped her squad pull away and secure a nine-stroke lead.

Seniors Mario Carbia and Fernando Díaz also improved their score and their chances on a sunny morning at Royal St. Kitts. After a first-round 77, the Puerto Ricans tied Trinidad and Tobago for best score of the day with a 72. While their 36-hole score of 149 is only good enough for fourth place, it has them only two strokes off the lead (shared by Bahamas and Barbados) in the most hotly-contested category of the entire tournament.

Felipe Colón and Raúl Rivera also had an outstanding round in the Mid-Amateur

category, following up their 71 on the first day with an excellent score of 68 on Thursday. That placed the Puerto Rican duo in a tie for third place as everybody now trails the Dominican Republic, which was dominant with a Best Ball round of 64 (-7) and holds a two-stroke lead over Jamaica.

Ironically, the only Puerto Rican squad that posted a higher score on day two is also the only Puerto Rican team that's in the lead: the Super Senior tandem of Carlos Matos and Elvin González, Sr. After an opening-round 71, the duo shot 72 on Thursday but still has a two-stroke lead over Trinidad & Tobago in the fight for the Higgs & Higgs Trophy.

The final two days should be full of exciting play at Royal St. Kitts, and we'll be looking for Puerto Rico to make a strong push and bring home as many trophies as possible.

Puerto Rico's participation at this year's event is possible thanks to the sponsorship and collaboration of companies such as **Cutter & Buck, American Airlines, Titleist, DIAGEO, Compañía Cervecería de Puerto Rico, and the Puerto Rico Open** who financially support our teams and the efforts made by the PRGA to bring amateur golf to the next level.

(Photo Gallery on Facebook)

First Round Recap of PUR Team Performance at Royal St. Kitts

by Alberto C. Medina - PRGA Staff Writer
(Day 1)

(Wednesday, August 8th 2012) - The Puerto Rican National Team has its work cut out after an up-and-down first round at the Caribbean Amateur Golf Championships, where a competitive first day seemed to presage an exciting tournament at Royal St. Kitts Golf Club.



Some early-morning gusts of wind gave way to sunny, comfortable conditions on the course, where the Island's Hoerman Cup team got strong performances from Erick Morales, Robert Calvesbert and Jerónimo Esteve, all of whom came in at 73 (+2). Alfred Colón and José Rodríguez stumbled, however, with scores of 82 a piece, leaving Puerto Rico at +17 (after dropping the lowest score) and tied with Barbados for 4th place. The Dominican Republic, meanwhile, leads everybody after an excellent round of play that saw the team finish at even par, thanks in part to an outstanding performance by George Riley, who had the best score of the day with a 69 (-2).

In the Ladies' competition, it was Puerto Rico's María Torres who had the best round of the day with a 72. Torres and Yudika Rodríguez (82) helped the Island's George Teale team to a score of 154 and second place, just two strokes behind the defending champion ladies from Trinidad & Tobago. Puerto Rico also had a solid showing in the Mid-Amateur competition, with the Best Ball duo of Felipe Colón and Raúl Rivera shooting an even par 71. Unfortunately, that score was only good for fifth-place in what turned out to be the day's toughest category: four countries shot under par, led by Jamaica at -6.

Also under the Best Ball format, seniors Fernando Díaz and Mario Carbia combined to shoot 77 (+6), which put them in a tie for sixth place, but only five strokes behind first-place Barbados, which sits at 72. Meanwhile, the veteran Super Senior squad of Elvin González, Sr.,

and Carlos Matos got off to a good start with a first-round 71 and lead the field; but it's a narrow lead, with Jamaica just one stroke behind, as Matos and González seek to bring the Higgs & Higgs Trophy to Puerto Rico for the 5th consecutive time.

The action continues Thursday morning and on until Saturday, when each category's champion will be crowned and the Arthur Ziadie Trophy will be awarded to the country with the best overall performance.

(Photo Gallery on Facebook)

Puerto Rico's best ready to go at Caribbean Championships



by Alberto Medina - PRGA Staff Writer
(Preview)

(Tuesday, August 7th, 2012) The 'kids' already did it; now it's the adults' turn.

Exactly one month after Puerto Rico's Junior National Team won its fifth-straight title at the Caribbean Amateur Junior Golf Championships, the National Team now begins play at the ***Caribbean Amateur Golf Championships*** with the goal of bringing the Hoerman Cup back home.

The event, which will be played at Royal St. Kitts Golf Club, features 10 teams that have sent their best to try to win the various trophies at stake. The

competition will surely be tough, but Puerto Rico's players like their chances. **Jerónimo Esteve, Robert Calvesbert, José Rodríguez, Alfred Colón and Erick Morales** (*pictured above*) make up a talented Hoerman Cup team that looms as the favorite. *"We have a pretty solid and consistent team, and I have no doubt that we have the necessary tools to win,"* said Morales, team captain and the tournament's top individual player in 2009 and 2011.

"It's just a matter of, every one of us, playing our game up to our potential."

Meanwhile, a young Puerto Rican female team will be battling for the George Teale Trophy. Paola Robles, Yudika Rodríguez and María Torres will face a tough challenge, especially from defending champs Trinidad & Tobago. But Morales believes that they also will come out on top. *"The girls should win by a wide margin,"* said Morales, before broadening his prediction of success to include all the categories.

"This year we can bring every trophy back home; that's the kind of potential this team has," said Morales, who praised his teammates on the Ramón Báez Cup (mid-amateurs), Francis & Steele-Perkins Cup (seniors), and Higgs & Higgs Trophy (super seniors).

The action kicks off Wednesday morning, so be sure to follow the live scoring on the links above and cheer on Puerto Rico's best as they represent their country.