





24-EMERGENCY SERVICE

FAIRMOUNT DOOR

RAYNOR SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

GARAGE DOORS AND OPENERS SINCE 1975 • 800-261-8641

FAIRMOUNTDOOR.COM

Sports

90th Grant County Amateur Tournament July 10

By Sean Douglas

With the summer season comes one of the longest running and most storied events in Grant County – the Grant County Men's and Women's Amateur Golf Tournaments.

The Grant County Amateur has been a staple of Grant County summers for decades, and the event's illustrious history looks to continue for another year.

The men's tournament began in 1929, and besides a three-year hiatus from 1943-1945 due to the second world war, the event has been held every second and third weekend in July since its inception.

From 1929-1954, Grant County Sports Hall of Famer Don Humes dominated the tournament, winning 11 men's championships in that time frame, which included two in a row in 1930-1931 and a three peat in 1938, 1939, and 1940.

Beginning in 1959, fellow Hall of Famer Boyd Toney established himself as the best golfer in Grant County. Over the next 16 years, from 1959 to 1975, Toney won the Grant County Amateur 12 times, which is still the all-time county record.

While Toney primarily dominated Grant County golf courses every summer he participated, several other big names took home the title in the 1970's. Legendary Marion High basketball coach Bill Green won the tournament in 1973, Bill Lester finished in first place in 1978, and Jim Gallagher Sr., father of PGA professional golfer Jim Gallagher Jr., closed out the decade with two straight triumphs.

The 1980's and 1990's provided a multitude of different winners, including Mark Erlewine, Steve



Todd Chin receiving his fifth Grant County Amateur championship plaque last summer.

Evans, and Rocky Purvis.

In the early part of the 2000's, Todd Chin featured as the star golfer of Grant County, winning the tournament in 2000, 2001, 2003, and 2005.

However, beginning in 2009, Andrew Varner cemented his place in Grant County lore.

A come-from-behind victory in '09 sparked a five-year run in which Varner won five straight titles, earning the reputation as one of the best golfers that the county had seen since the days of Toney. His reign came to an end in 2014 at the hands of Austin Conroy, but Varner found himself back on top over the last two summers.

In 2018, he won his seventh Grant County Amateur title behind a tremendous performance, shooting a combined -5 during the second weekend of the tournament.

And in 2019, Varner put together one of the most impressive two weekends of golf in the history of the tournament, tying Gallagher Jr's all-time mark of 270 in the process.

Varner began the tour-

nament with a 67 (-5) at Walnut Creek, leading the second-place golfer, former Oak Hill standout Cody White, by six strokes. He widened his lead even more at Arbor Trace in the second round, shooting a 65 (-7) to take both a score of -12 and an 11-stroke advantage into the second weekend.

At the Marion Elks Country Club, Varner finished with eight birdies and a score of 66 (-6), before putting the finishing touches on his masterpiece at Meshingomesia the next day, shooting even. Varner won the event by 21 strokes.

His eight overall titles are the third-most in Grant County history, trailing only Toney and Humes.

White, a tremendous golfer in his own right, won three consecutive tournaments from 2015-2017, putting together the first Grant County Amateur win streak since Varner won five in a row from 2009-2013.

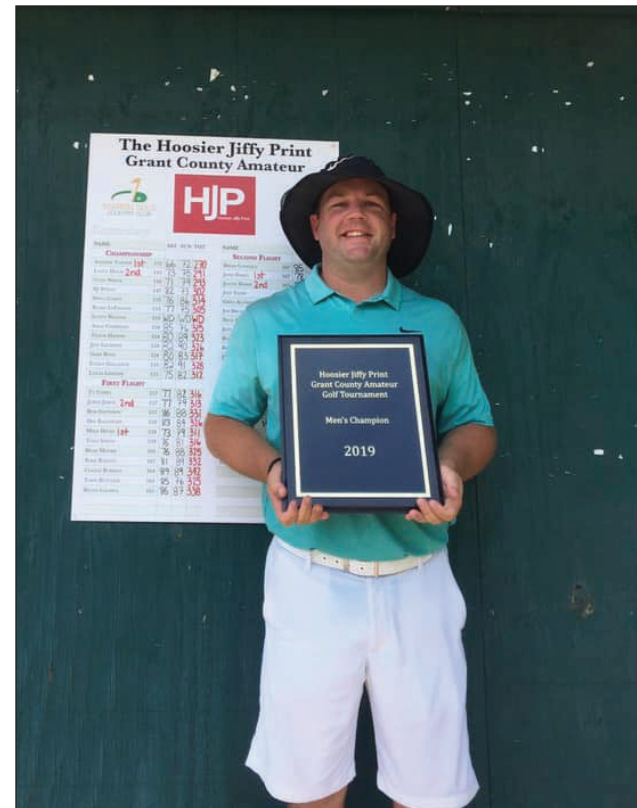
Chin, competing in his first Grant County Amateur in five years in 2020, finished as the Grant

County Amateur champion last summer with a tremendous performance on the final day at Meshingomesia. Leading Varner by one strike, Chin performed brilliantly on the back nine, collecting seven straight birdies before recording a clutch putt on hole 17. After his strong drive, Chin followed with an excellent second shot, putting himself close to the hole. While the putt nearly lipped out, the ball eventually settled, securing his fifth title.

The women's tournament did not start until 1965, but Grant County has also seen its share of talented female golfers.

Betty Hulse was a force to be reckoned with in the early days, winning four straight championships from 1968-1971 and another in 1974 to give her five titles in the tournament's first ten years.

After Hulse's last title in '74, Julie [Drook] Flores, another Grant County Sports Hall of Famer, won three straight championships in 1975, 1976, and 1977 on her way to becoming one of the most decorated female golfers



Andrew Varner holds eight Grant County Amateur titles, which is third-most in tournament history.

in the county. Her wins in 1985, 1989, and 1992 helped her surpass Hulse in the record books, and her seventh title in 2013 gave her the record for most victories in the women's amateur tournament.

Not to be outdone by Flores, K.C. Cain was one of the most dominant female golfers in the 2000s, winning the title in 2005 before winning four straight titles from 2007-2010. After Kathy Adamson won the tournament in 2011, Cain was once again victorious in 2012.

Former Eastbrook star Jenna Boucher has won the last two women's tournaments, posting a score of 331 in 2018 and 326 in 2019. Boucher also won the 2020 Grant County Amateur as the only female participant.

This year's tournaments, sponsored by Hoosier Jiffy Print, will be held over the weekends of July 10-11 and July 17-18.

The first round begins on July 10 at Arbor Trace Golf Club, while round

two will be held on July 11 at Marion Elks Country Club.

The third round will take place at Walnut Creek Golf Course on July 17, while the fourth and final round will be held at Meshingomesia Golf Club on July 18.

Pairings and tee times made by the committee are final, and participants will be divided into flights after the second round. The number of flights will be determined by the number of entries. Every participant in the tournaments must be a Grant County resident, a member of one of the county courses, or a student at a county school or university.

The cost for each participant is 75 dollars, which covers tournament entry, green fees, and prize fund. If participants choose to take a cart, they will be responsible for paying those fees at each individual golf course the day of the event. Only two carts per group will be permitted.