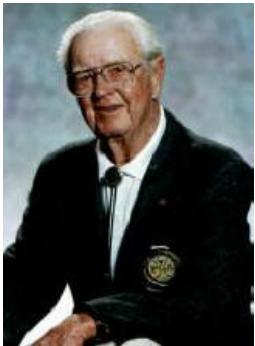


Articles and Tips - Dick Forester 'Pro' of the Year



Occasionally I insert something that is not a pure golf tip, but something about my philosophies or myself so that you get to know me a bit better. This month is another one of those times, in that I would like to share an award that I received and am very proud of, the Dick Forester 'Pro' of the Year Award.

On April 25th Golf Reach Texas held the 3rd Annual TPI "Pro" Classic at Bentwater Golf Club on Lake Conroe with 26 STPGA members competing in a pro-am for a purse of \$12,500. The memorial event is named after Dick "Pro" Forester, Houston area golf legend, who served the golf community for over 40 years.

In the professional medal play Robert Thompson, of Ravens Nest and Whispering Pines, carded a four under 68 to take the \$3,500 first prize. Tim Hobby, Sonterra teaching pro shot -2 and won \$2000 for second place. The top 5 was rounded out by Chip Craig (\$1250) and Tim Thelen (\$1250) in a tie at even par with Troy Schleicher (\$850) and Brandon Turner (\$850) shooting one over 73s.

Twenty six pros brought amateur teams from their clubs and fourteen places were paid with the top 5 amateur teams taking home great prizes in the Pinehurst Best Ball Competition.

In addition to the action on the course GolfReach names a Dick Forester "Pro" of the Year and a Dick Forester College Scholarship winner each year. Past winners of the pro of the year award have been Ron Coville (Walden), Lorie Tatum (Cypresswood) and Dale Morgan (Austin Country Club) and this year's winner was Neil Wilkins, teaching pro at Sienna Plantation and teacher for Ryan Palmer, current PGA tour player. The criterion for the award includes teaching, reaching, serving and influencing lives in the golf community from an athletic and spiritual perspective. The College Scholarship winner this year is Jordan Jones of Langham Creek H.S. Jordan will be playing college golf at Texas State University next year. The scholarship qualifications include being a junior golfer who will attend college to play golf, having a desire to use golf to make a difference in others lives and being interested in being mentored on and off the course during college. Last year's inaugural winner was Katy LaRoche of Montgomery who is currently at Ole' Miss.

The purpose of GolfReach is to use the game of golf to make a difference in the lives of professional and amateur golfers and their families. The GolfReach goal is to reach, teach, serve and influence people who love golf and help them be all that God created them to be in all their relationships, on and off the course!

Neil tied for 7th place carded a 74 and took home \$650.00
