



50th CHAMPIONS CUP INVITATIONAL

April 27th – 30th, 2017

Champions Golf Club

April 29, 2017
Houston, Texas
Champions Golf Club

Louisiana Team stays in lead with solid third round at 50th Champions Cup Invitational

Derek Busby / John Talley, claiming home from St. Martinsville & Ruston, LA, manage & scrambled their games, in very difficult weather conditions, carding a third round four-under par 67, at the 54-hole point of the 50th Champions Cup Invitational. Their five birdies were sprinkled throughout their round during their steady second round play.

The Busby/Talley teams 54-hole total of 199, fourteen under par leads fifty-five other USA and International teams, held on the extremely difficult 7,450-yard, par 71 Cypress Creek Course at Champions Golf Club.

A different third round by the team, who had not posted a bogey in their first 36 holes, featured only six pars, eight birdies and four bogies for their 35-32 nine hole scores. They made two birdie runs during the round, one of three in a row (#7-#8-#9) and the other four in row (#14, #15, #16, #17) allowing them to take a three-shot lead into the fourth and final round on Sunday.

The second round, which was played in blustery and swirling southeast winds swirling at 30-40 mph throughout the round, created havoc for the field, challenging all teams to rely on their short games and putting to survive the windy conditions.

Houston team of Bryant Lach and Matt Cordell remained in second place after round three, but lost two strokes to the leaders in shooting a two-under par score 34-35 = 69. Lack and Cordell stand three strokes behind the leader with their 54-hole total of 202, eleven-under par. Lach and Cordell, both members of the host Champions Golf Club, recorded five birdies and three bogies. Their birdies came in bunches with back to back birdies on par three eighth hole and the par five ninth hole, and three birdies in a row on the back nine on the par five 13th, the par four 14th and 15th holes.

In third place at 204, 9 under par, is the former champion team of Houstonian Kyle Maxwell and from Illinois, Derek Meinhart.

A logjam persists at fourth place 8 under par 205, with three teams sharing the spot. Ben Klaus (Oklahoma City, OK) - Riley Pumphrey (Austin, TX), Kevin Herman (Powell, Tennessee) - Craig Junio (Las Vegas, NV) and John Ehrgott (Edwards, IL) - Tim Sheppard (East Peoria, IL) are all tied and are sitting six strokes out of the lead going into the fourth and final round on Sunday.

Fifty-Six two-man mid-am teams, from 18 states, Japan and Scotland are competing in the 2016 event. The field is loaded with top amateur golfing talent that included over 400 appearances by the competitors in various USGA national championships. Average handicaps of the 112 players is +2.9 strokes per round.



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Jack Burke, owner of Champions and 1956 Masters and PGA Champions advised the Cypress Creek course is an extremely difficult test of golf and is truly testing all the players to their golf course management skills. Once the wind kicks up and starts swirling around the golf course, the golfers are really going to have to be precise with their shots or face severe consequences. And the large greens put a real premium on solid putting”.

This 50th annual event is being held Champions Cypress Creek Course, which has hosted multiple USGA, Sectional and Texas events over the years. Included on that list include the Ryder Cup, US Open, Five Tour Championships, US Amateur, and will play host to the 2020 USGA Women’s Open.