

Wednesday, June 21, 2018

Celebrity sightings were all over TPC River Highlands on Wednesday, as Travelers Championship week shifted to the Travelers Celebrity Pro-Am and the Farmington Bank Celebrity Mini Golf Tournament. Another warm, sunny day brought a large crowd and a charity focus to the golf course.

The day began with a morning Pro-Am wave and the WFAN “Boomer & Gio” show broadcasting from the Radio Deck overlooking the practice facility. Over in the Farmington Bank Kids Zone, three-person teams were competing for a \$2,500 charity donation in the Farmington Bank Mini Golf Tournament. The iHeart Media team of Ben Darnell, David Fische and Adam Rivers won the 9:30 a.m. wave and designated Kenway’s Cause as the charity receiving a \$2,500 donation. Another iHeart team – Rob Dibble, Rachel Lutzker and Damon Scott – won the 10:30 a.m. wave, selecting Connecticut Children’s Medical Center as the charity recipient. The tournament was hosted by actresses Melissa Joan Hart and Bridget Moynahan and actor Dane DeHaan. A number of local television celebrities also participated.

On the main golf course, the Travelers Celebrity Pro-Am featured a number of famous faces. Celebrities in the field included television journalist Norah O’Donnell, Tony Award-nominated actor Christopher Jackson, who played George Washington in the original Broadway cast of “Hamilton,” comedian George Lopez, broadcaster Chris Berman, two-time Stanley Cup champion Nick Bonino, former NFL MVP Boomer Esiason and two-time NBA champion Ray Allen.

The winning Pro-Am team from the morning wave consisted of PGA TOUR professional Paul Casey, along with Devin Beresheim, Andy Llop and Mike Watts. The afternoon winners included TOUR professional Bryson DeChambeau, teamed with Mark Davidson, Christopher Laskey and Chris McGuire. Two-time Travelers Championship winner Bubba Watson shot 63 for the day’s low professional score.

Lanto Griffin, who won Tuesday’s The Umbrella at 15 ½ Challenge, was presented with the winner’s oversized check on Wednesday by Andy Bessette, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer at Travelers, and Travelers Championship Tournament Director Nathan Grube. Travelers donated \$10,000 to Griffin’s designated charity, the Roanoke Valley Golf Hall of Fame Scholarship.

Active duty military members had the chance to serve as caddies for PGA TOUR professionals on the 17th hole during the Pro-Am as part of the Birdies for the Brave Military Caddie Program presented by Trinity Health Of New England.

The first round of competition is scheduled for Thursday, with Golf Channel providing live coverage from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. EDT.

Thursday is also Women's Day sponsored by Travelers. This year's program will feature O'Donnell and Jackson as headliners. The proceeds from Women's Day will go to various tournament charities, including the 2018 primary beneficiary, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. All women attending the tournament on Women's Day will receive special discounts and benefits.