

THE BARRIE EXAMINER

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Leduc didn't disappoint

By IAN MCINROY BARRIE EXAMINER

INNISFIL -- Christian Leduc is on a roll.

The eight-year-old Innisfil golfer was the favourite going into Wednesday's Canadian Junior Golf Association's (CJGA) Ontario Junior Linkster Series, being held at Innisfil Creek Golf Course.

He didn't disappoint. He shot a 39 -- three over par -- over nine holes and came in first in the eight and under age group.

Earlier this season during his first year on the Junior Linkster Series tour, he placed second in Acton, won at Aurora Highlands and tied for third at Ballantrae during a qualifier for the USGA.

He'll also be participating in the Innisfil Creek Juniors Tournament on Wednesday, July 20.

The Linkster Tour programs provide a foundation for young golfers up to 13 years old to teach them the fundamentals of the game, as well as some valuable life skills along the way.

Garnet Leduc, Christian's father, said it's a great day for the young golfers to get out on the links and a way to learn what golf has to offer.

"It's all about the fun. And you can't rely on anybody else but yourself," he said, while Christian practised his chipping skills. "There is respect, etiquette: all of life's lessons in a sport."

The recent event was the 10th tournament of the 2011 Linkster season and fourth held at Innisfil Creek in as many years.

Head golf professional John Downes said the future of golf is with younger players.

"I'm a firm believer in junior golf at Innisfil Creek. That's where the growth in our game is," he said. "The numbers of the tournament are growing every year. The kids like the golf course. We want them to feel good about themselves when they golf."

"We are fully committed to junior golf."

Innisfil Creek donates the course for the Junior Linkster tour, he added.

Other winners during the Linkster Series tour at Innisfil Creek Golf Course include: winner of boys age 11-13 was Peter MacDonald who shot an 82; winner of the girls 10-13 was Jennifer Yoon, who shot a 91; winner of the boys nine to 10 was Eric Byun, who shot a 79; and the girls nine and under winner was Hailey McLaughlin, who shot a 50 (nine holes).

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