



FOR RELEASE: Monday, Jan. 15, 2018

PURDUE FRESHMAN COLE BRADLEY CAPTURES JAGA FIRST COAST AMATEUR BY ONE SHOT

-Chase Baldwin wins Mid-Amateur competition-

JACKSONVILLE, FL - Cole Bradley of Purdue University fought off several challengers to win the **JAGA First Coast Amateur** by one shot over **Jack Comstock** (Jacksonville, Fla./University of South Florida) and **Jonathan Keppler** (Marietta, Ga./Florida State University) on another cool, blustery winter day in North Florida.

The 18-year-old Bradley finished with a 4-over-par 220 total at host Hidden Hills Golf Club. Three birdies in the middle of his round provided just enough cushion to overcome inward nine bogies on Nos. 15 and 16.



Cole Bradley - JAGA First Coast Amateur, 2018 champion

Comstock and Keppler were among a group of four golfers tied for second after two rounds, just one shot off Bradley's lead. Bradley, Comstock and Keppler posted identical rounds of 1-over 73 the last day.

The champion was not particularly impacted by the three days of unseasonably cold Florida weather which saw temperatures barely reach 50 degrees and often felt like 40 with the wind blowing through the highly elevated Hidden Hills layout. "We play in 35-degree weather all the time," he said. "This was cold but nothing I haven't played in before."

The West Lafayette, Ind. resident is a freshman on the Purdue golf team. His roots in Jacksonville run deep. His mother is from Jacksonville and his father, Rob, was an assistant coach at the University of North Florida, before heading to the University of Alabama for one year and then onto his first head coaching job at Purdue in 2013.

The local favorite, Comstock, who grew up playing golf at Hidden Hills, bounced back from a quadruple-bogey 8 at the par-4 third hole and made a valiant run at the leader with birdies on Nos. 14, 17 and 18 for an incoming nine of 33.

Keppler's undoing was a double-bogey 7 on the 11th. The son of one of Georgia's top PGA professionals, Stephen Keppler, played his last seven holes 1-under to finish a shot shy of Bradley.

The mid-amateur competition for tournament contestants age 25 and above was won convincingly by **Chase Baldwin** of Jacksonville. Nine shots back in second was **Toby Ragland**, also of Jacksonville. The 34-year-old Baldwin finished tied for sixth overall with rounds of 79-70-74. He will be competing in his first Underwood Cup next month at Timuquana Country Club in Jacksonville.



Chase Baldwin - JAGA First Coast Amateur, 2018 Mid-Amateur champion

A field of 78 stellar amateur golfers ranging from ages 16 to 54 competed in the 54-hole championship that was being played for only the second year. The contestants represented 14 states, 26 colleges and five countries.

The top finishers received points from the World Amateur Golf Ranking.

The First Coast Amateur is sponsored and conducted by the Jacksonville Amateur Golf Association, which annually promotes Jacksonville's top-level amateur competitions and has since 1954. It is the only JAGA-run event that is promoted nationally and features multi-state and multi-national participants.

Editor's Note: Quotation used in this press release credited to Garry Smits/Florida Times-Union.

-JAGA-

ABOUT JAGA

Established in 1954, JAGA celebrates its 65th year in 2018. It is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (4) corporation comprised of 40-member golf clubs located in the Northeast Florida area. JAGA's mission is to promote golf and goodwill through tournaments and related events and activities. It conducts 10 tournaments, including five championship events and five others that feature team formats. JAGA manages a scholarship program that currently provides college funding for 25 area students. Since 1974 the program has generated approximately \$1.75 million in financial aid to approximately 350 students.

Anyone interested in receiving monthly "JAGA News & Notes" and announcements about JAGA tournaments via email may do so by signing up at JAXAREAGOLF.ORG. Simply click on the home page link that reads "**Subscribe to JAGA Email**".

Contact:

Jeff Adams
JAGA, VP-Tournaments
Cell: 904-607-6142
Email: jeffreytadams71@gmail.com