



2010 Champion's Corner

With Defending Champion, John Dailey

John, on behalf of the Endicott College Invitational, our valued sponsors and supporting fans, we are delighted to not only have you here for a pre-ECI interview, but also to have you back once again in arguably one of the best fields of amateur golf.

Mr. Dailey, your game has excelled tremendously over the last few years and we are excited to hear all about it, so let's cut to the chase!

MZ: John, this off-season, it seems that you have really been breaking down your swing by watching countless hours of video from your lessons with swing coach, Tom Rizzotti from Great River GC. Do you feel it's a little "too much" or has this truly helped your mechanics?

JD: I've been tinkering to say the least, but I'm trying to figure out the right way to swing. I'm trying to find a swing that will hold up under pressure. I think the help from Tom Rizzotti, along with Ray Klein, can only help my game going forward. The hard work has to pay off at some point, right?

MZ: You've played a few rounds this year. How would you evaluate your game right now and is your game good enough to win a third consecutive ECI?

JD: It's a bit rough around the edges right now, but it's only April 15th. I can't recall a year where I came storming out of the gates with great scores after spending countless cold months in the winter, away from the game. It's going to take some time to come back to form, and I need to be patient. Sure, I feel like I can win another ECI. If I didn't, I wouldn't have accepted the invite back.

MZ: ---Right, right right. But remember, this has only been done once before by Nick Turczak. Do you feel he can make a run at a fourth title in six years?

JD: Absolutely! He's a proven winner, and had a great collegiate career. He's still the top dog in this golf tournament in my opinion, but we do have a nice rivalry brewing if you ask me.

MZ: Let's talk about some players who have really been close over the years but have yet to win their first ECI – Matt Davis in a 2006 playoff, Ken Tessier finishing in fifth, second and third the last three years, and even Matt Gajda, who finished third in 2009.



MZ Continued: Can any of these guys make a run this year, or is the field so balanced that anyone, if having a good day, can win this event?

JD: There are lots of good players in this thing. That's the beauty of the event. Marc Zirolli does a great job at shopping the best talent in the New England area. With this championship only being a one day event, anyone can come out here and have a career day and win. You didn't mention McLear, or Dargon, or how about professional Brian Gill. I'd throw them in the mix too! They all have great resumes and can go low with a good round.

MZ: How would you say winning the ECI changes your social status in one's local community? Think about the guys on Tour – they win for the first time and their entire life changes. Does winning the ECI compare?

JD: It's given me confidence in other tournaments that I can close the door and win. These past championships in 2008 and 2009 serve as great reminders that I can compete, and play under pressure. There was no greater feeling than last year winning with a birdie on the last hole and shooting a 74 on a great golf course. As far as social status is concerned, it's a local Massachusetts event, and wins in the ECI reverberate around the Endicott College community. I would hope I am held in high regard not only as a player at Endicott, but also as a philanthropist and one who is great with kids and a good overall person and alum.

MZ: There's a new player in the field this year; highly respected men's and women's volleyball coach at Endicott, Tim Byram. You've played some golf with him over the years. He's the oldest player in the field, but can certainly play with the big boys. Your thoughts on what his strategy should be entering this event and playing a risk-reward golf course in Red Tail.

JD: It's going to be tough for him being the first time seeing this tricky golf course. The place is kind of like Augusta National. Guys who win the ECI seem to know the course well, the greens, the safe places to lay up etc. If I were him, I'd schedule a few practice rounds.

MZ: This will be your seventh time playing Red Tail Golf Club. Where does this golf course rank amongst your Top 10, if at all, and what changes would you make to the layout, if any, to give it some more "beef?"

JD: I wouldn't change it at all. It's a new golf course and there is so much risk-reward out there. Lots of birdie opportunities, and in a blink of an eye, you could ruin your round with one bad swing. Awesome views and tons of history as the golf course is encased in one of our countries most famous Army bases. I always look forward to going to Red Tail. I hope the ECI stays here for a long time.



MZ: Have you heard of the 630-yard par-3 at Legends Golf and Safari Resort in South Africa? Apparently it's just one hole and costs \$200 US dollars to play, but you win one million dollars if you jar it. Does a trip to Africa coincide to your schedule anytime soon?

JD: A trip right now to Boston puts a damper on my budget, never mind South Africa. I saw a piece on that hole on TV last week, and quite frankly, I'd be more worried about falling off the tee box at that elevation than jarring it for a million. It would be pretty cool playing that hole at some point.

MZ: John, it's been a pleasure. Best of luck at this year's ECI and for the remainder of your 2010 season – we wish you the best...Thanks!

JD: Thanks Marc, always a pleasure brotha. See you in a couple of weeks.