



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Diary Entry By: Kenny Dargon

Dear ECI'ers of 2012,

I can't believe we'll be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the ECI tournament this weekend. The much hyped, long awaited 36-hole medal play event is merely a few days away. I can remember just a couple years ago when Zirolli had started talking about the possibilities of having a two day event in honor of the milestone. Ideas had been thrown around about making a weekend trip somewhere; however, we probably wouldn't have been able to come up with even two foursomes. What a headache it's been to get people to commit to 2 days of golf that we've known about for a whole year. Regardless of where we played I knew it would be great because, well, it's 2 days of golf, plain and simple. There are few days over the course of the year that I can say are more fun and enjoyable than this event. It is each person's attendance that makes this event that special. I want to quickly thank John Dailey and Mark Zirolli for throwing this event together each year, even more so this year because of the added complexity of an extra day. It doesn't make it any easier on them when having to deal with the likes of Carl Bean and Matthew Davis, who on any given day can experience issues with rather elementary tasks such as getting dressed or showering. However, I'll give Davis credit; he seems to be turning the maturity corner as he nears the end of his 20's and Carl owns his own house so things are seriously looking up.

This year's event is sure to be unlike any other, for the first time in its existence it will test the abilities of each and every golfer to the fullest over not one but two days. No longer are we playing a golf course that everyone has become familiar with and memorizes its doglegs, undulating greens, danger areas and steep cart paths. For the first day, mostly everyone (I say most because a couple of us have played Blackstone) is on a clean slate and seeing this course for the first time. With that being said, it's the responsibility to those who have played the course to confuse the fuck out of their playing partners. One thing is for sure, whoever wins this years ECI has a little extra added notoriety to being crowned ECI Champ. With certainty we can all say that the 2012 champ won't win just because they had a good "day" on the golf course, it will take two well composed rounds of golf. An 82 on day one could certainly keep you in the hunt for day two at Red Tail, whereas in the past you knew another day, another year had passed without the coveted trophy.

As we continue with the tradition each year, the field mainly unchanged, yet I can't help but think how much change goes on around us. We find it amongst ourselves to gather one weekend out of the year traveling from all parts of the country, amidst different times of our lives. But on this day, typically the first weekend in May, many things are certain and go unchanged; Marc Zirolli will still have Nike iron club covers, John Dailey will be sporting his colorful plaids, Bean may very well be intoxicated prior to tee off, Barnes will be throwing around the pigskin in the parking lot, Davis will still be hung over from the night before, McLear's "undies" will already have skid marks and



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Tess will shoot a 78 and fail yet again at capturing that first title. Each of these certainties is what keeps me coming back, well maybe not McLear's skid marks, but no matter how many changes we go through in our daily lives we know this group will always reconvene every May and new memories and stories will be born. I know, a little more serious than I like to be but that's how much I look forward to partaking in the annual tournament.

I'm really looking forward to seeing everyone this weekend and I wish everyone the best of luck out on the course. Please be responsible behind the wheel of the golf carts, Blackstone National has some seriously steep cart paths. Some of us will hit great golf shots, many of us will hit poor ones, should you be part of the latter category don't hesitate to give a nice loud Zirolli FOOOOOOOOOORREEE RIGHT!!!!

Lookout Cookout,

Kenny Dargon, 2003 ECI Champion