

Winning With Waldorf III: A Resounding Success

Report from the Links – by Patrice Maynard

We're back from **Winning With Waldorf III**! PGA Touring Champion Duffy Waldorf, already our hero, increased his heroics exponentially by gracing our third tourney three weeks after major knee and shin surgery. He arrived with his lovely and capable nurse and wife, Vicky Waldorf, and a portable ice machine to keep his leg cool. With his considerable eloquence he let everyone know about the best education in the world for his children and for all children!

The delightful Redmont School was our gracious host, and the play was at the beautiful FarmLinks Golf Club, designed by the Purcell family to train golf course management professionals on the best course possible. . The luxurious elegance of this course is beyond adequate description...combining forest, wild flowers, cultivated gardens, little wooden bridges, hills and valleys, and subtle gradings of greens for maximum challenge in the play. Hole Number Five has a pro tee-off spot so high one can touch the clouds and commune with birds and angels while recovering from the shock of the stunning view. The Redmont School's administrator, Randy Brothers, was able to secure the course for this great event with his indomitable determination, development skills, and unlimited charm (among other, innumerable tasks).

Chaddie and Patrick Hughes, Richard Caro, Michael Soule, Betsy Gimenez (bursting with appropriate pride in her region's celebrity!), and I were the able AWSNA representatives. Patrick, Michael, and Richard all golfed for Waldorf Education with two other local heroes. Chaddie and Betsy did the golf cart cheerleading tour to applaud the teams and check the action.

There were multiple heroes in this golf game. Joining Duffy and Vicky were a gathering of beloved Alabama football stars from past and present. Al del Greco held his "Jox radio" program live from the front porch (a wide, graceful, wraparound porch filled with Alabama-style rocking chairs - mint juleps were the only missing thing!) of the FarmLinks club house. He golfed, too, along with other football noteworthies who ended up being excellent at golf, without needing to kick the ball!

Duffy got his knee all iced up and then gave a clinic. He spoke while others demonstrated, with their strokes, right and wrong ways to approach the game.

As always, he was full of gentle encouragement, reminders to have a good time, and good advice. With impish improvisation, he hit a few balls with the end of his crutches. Even *those* shots are good with Duffy! Sarah Hicks, a fifteen year old powerhouse of a golfer joined us with her granddad and helped Duffy demonstrate with genuine ease and skill (Sarah's long drives are l-o-o-o-n-g-g-g!)

Duffy took Ed Cook, Chair of the Board of the Redmont School, and Patrice off in a golf cart for the mandatory careening golf-cart activity as adjuncts to Betsy and Chaddie. He spoke to most of the golfers in the tournament before he needed to return to the club house for another icy leg

treatment. (The endlessly easy and warm-hearted hospitality of the Alabama FarmLinks folk helped us and charmed us by calling it Duffy's "ahhs treatment"...too darling to resist!) A lesser champion than Duffy would have followed the doctor's orders and stayed home. But not our Duffy!

Indomitable, he carried on. Vicky golfed as a solid member of one of the teams, checking in from time to time on her "patient," but mostly charming influential members of her team with her golfing prowess and tales of Waldorf Education and why she has been Winning With Waldorf in many ways for many years!!

Maybe the biggest thrill of the day (for us) was to watch our AWSNA team win the first place trophies. No one's surprise was greater than the team's! Michael Soule hadn't played in 25 years and played well, rumor had it, aided by good putts and strokes from Patrick and Richard, the strength of the local football stars on the team, and, in the words of the wise Patrick Hughes, a substantial combination handicap. Whatever magic it took, they did it! And wowed the crowd. The trophies looked good on them, it must be admitted!

Golfers were happy, though a bit on the medium-to-well-done side in the heat! AND we accomplished a great deal on the great day for Waldorf Education, The Redmont School, the Atlantic Southeast Region, and the business community in Birmingham (and across the continent as well), who now know that Waldorf Education is part of their community's rich landscape. We hope Vicky was successful in returning Duffy and his knee back home to a resting position.

Many thanks to all who supported with ads, sponsorships, long-distance cheers, and endless good will. It was a miracle to see the little developing Redmont School pull off a continental event with such style (I mean stahhh)! Strength through collaboration works especially well while Winning with Waldorf(s)!

Now on to Winning With Waldorf IV (pronounced "FORE!")

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