

## *Hoffman hangs on to win Boys City 2007 Junior Championship by one shot*

Jordan Hoffman's day didn't begin all that great as his blood sugar count had soared to 500 mg/dl. when he climbed out

of bed. Ideally, Hoffman, who has Type 1 diabetes, should have a count of 100 or lower. Maybe that was an omen that Thursday wasn't going to be easy.



The adrenaline he was pumping from leading the Fort Worth Boys City Junior Championship caused Hoffman's blood sugar count to skyrocket. The 16-year-old said he had trouble sleeping for the second consecutive night. The uneasy nights started after he had gained the outright lead after the second round.

Even though Hoffman was ahead by five shots heading into the final round of the 72-hole tournament, he wasn't expecting an easy ride on Thursday (July 19), especially considering he had never played Shady Oaks Country Club. Hoffman, more accustomed to the slower greens at his home course of Willow Springs in Haslet, had troubles with the faster Shady Oaks bent grass greens and three-putted "five or six" of them en route to a final-round 8-over-par 79 and a 72-hole total of 7-over 291.



Jordan Hoffman drives off the 11th hole, top, and sinks the winning putt on the 18th.

"They were hard to putt...even the 6- and 7-footers," he said.

Austin Struble, Hoffman's closest challenger starting the day at five shots back, had even more problems as he fell back with an 83. But Andrew Presley, a 15-year-old Paschal student, didn't let Hoffman off the hook. Presley, starting the day seven behind, carded a 73 to finish only one back. There's a flower bed at Shady Oaks that Presley no doubt would like to dig up after it cost him a double-bogey on the par-5 eighth, a hole he had expected to birdie.



Andrew Presley finished second by 1 shot.

"I played the par 5s 3-over. And par 5s are usually where I make my birdies," Presley said. He double-bogeyed after hitting his second shot behind a flower bed despite a perfect drive. He tried to punch under tree limbs, but the ball caught the flower bed and fell into it. By the time he finished, he had a 7 rather than an expected 4. "I was one-over par going into the hole. I was trying to get back even on that hole."

After making the turn at 3-over, he shot 1-under on the back nine. He thought he might be in contention, but didn't know for sure until he reached the 18th when he was told that Hoffman was eight over.

"I was only one back, so if I could birdie or something happens to him on the last hole I could win," Presley said. He had a chance to birdie the final hole, but his 10-footer lipped out. Then, after watching Hoffman hit the final green in regulation, Presley said he didn't expect to see Hoffman three-putt because "he's such a good putter. But that's all right, it was fun." Yet, Hoffman had to sink an almost four-foot par putt to secure the title.

Meanwhile, Hoffman's day grew more complicated as the insulin pump he wears around his waist popped off twice, causing his catheter to come out. He had to play more than half the round without insulin, though he said he was never affected and managed to keep his blood sugar down even though his score kept rising. "I had to drink a lot of water," he said.

After nine holes, Hoffman thought he might be in trouble holding the lead as well as controlling his blood sugar..

"After shooting a (4-over) 39 on the front, I figured it might come down to the last shot," he said. "I knew he (Presley) was going to come out and shoot good today."

Hoffman said he had no idea whether he was leading or not heading into the final hole. "I was just fighting hard the last couple of holes and do the best I could."

He said the key to staying ahead of the golfers in his group (Struble and Shane McDonald) was a 10-foot par putt he sank on the par-3 7th. He had one birdie (the ninth), a double-bogey on the fourth and seven bogeys.

Hoffman said he was somewhat surprised to win considering this was his first tournament of the summer, but was happy to see his name join the champions list that began in 1936 and includes most of Fort Worth's top players.

Austin Berkovsky, who's heading for the University of Arkansas, was trying to become the only boy to win three consecutive titles, but said he had one of his worst weeks of playing.

"It's a little disappointing," he said of not repeating. "But I'm not crushed."

"I just hit it awful this week. My putting was decent. If I had hit it better, I probably would have been right there," Berkovsky said. "This is probably the four worst rounds I've played in a row ever. I'm not totally hopeless. I hit some decent shots today, but the first two days I was totally lost. More than anything, I haven't been playing as much."

But there is a consolation as Berkovsky and his Aledo High teammates had a cruise scheduled two days after the tournament as a reward for winning the 4A state championship. "It was just something we got promised two years ago that if we won the state championship, we'd get to go on a cruise."