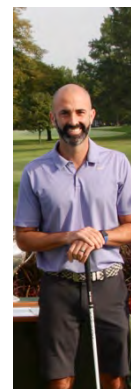


# JASON BUFFONE CAPTURES THE 70<sup>TH</sup> PLAYING OF THE CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Park Ridge, Illinois, September 30, 2021

By John Larson

On a picture-perfect day with temperatures in the low 80s and a slight breeze out of the northeast, Jason Buffone of Sanctuary Golf Course carded a two under par 68 to reign victorious in the 70<sup>th</sup> playing of the Richard E. Peterson Champion of Champions Golf Tournament at Park Ridge Country Club.



Jason was the only player to break par in a highly competitive field of 69 players. He posted his 68 early and anxiously watched as several players made their run at him, with closest pursuers Mark Small [Prestwick CC] and T. J. Blakemore [Medinah CC] eventually finishing two shots back at even par 70.



Buffone's round included a clutch 9-foot birdie putt on the 16<sup>th</sup> hole to put him at 2 under par. He then hit the long par-3 17<sup>th</sup> hole in regulation and 2-putted from 12 feet. Finally, the difficult double dog-leg, 448-yard par-4 finishing hole created its usual drama. Jason pushed his tee shot into the right rough behind the low hanging branch of an unforgiving tree. After much thought, he hit a magnificent "cut 6-iron under the branch" to the front of the green. From there, he 2-putted to record his winning score of 68.

His round got off to a fortuitous start. On the first hole, his drive settled among the trees in the right rough, but he found a fortunate window to the green 160 yards away. His 8-iron ended on the back-left of the green with a front-right hole location. A very long first putt finished 2 ½ feet away and he made the putt for par. "That gave me a lot of confidence," confided Buffone.

Repeating that winning formula on the par-3 5<sup>th</sup> hole, his tee shot found the back-left of the green with a middle-left hole location. His first putt again left him 2 ½ feet, from which he made a very slippery down-hill slider to save par. Another confidence builder.



Of the 3 closest competitors, T.J. Blakemore [Medinah Country Club] had the best opportunity of catch Buffone. Sitting at 1 under par with 5 holes remaining, T. J. just missed short birdie putts on holes 14, 15, & 16, but made a wonderful par-saving up-and-down from the sand on the par 3 17<sup>th</sup> hole to remain in the hunt at 1 under par. Needing a birdie on 18 to tie the leader, Blakemore’s drive unfortunately found the trees, leading to a bogey and an even par 70.

Buffone qualified for the 2021 Champion of Champions Tournament by winning this year’s Sanctuary Golf Course Club Championship. His home course is located in the far South Chicago suburb of New Lenox.

Jason is no stranger to tournament golf, having won the Indiana “Boys State” Championship during the summer between his junior and senior years in high school. As a high school senior, he lost the Indiana High School State Championship in a playoff after tying in stroke play competition. Following high school, Jason played on the Lewis University golf team and subsequently has competed in many USGA and CDGA events.

As in years past, the 2021 Champion of Champions event included many interesting storylines beyond the eventual champion.

We had a unique Father/Son team compete this year. Mike Treitler, club champion from Ravinia Green Country Club had his dad - Dr. Stanley Treitler - on the bag. Stanley has competed in 5 Champion of Champions tournaments, most recently in 1998 at Park Ridge Country Club. Fittingly, they both shot the same score - 23 years apart!



Another connection to the event's past included Joe Emerich, who spent many years caddying for the Butler Champ in the Champion of Champions tournament. This year he was competing on his own merits, representing Stonebridge Country Club. His impressive 74 placed him in a tie for 4<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to being the 70<sup>th</sup> playing of the championship, 2021 marked the 24<sup>th</sup> consecutive year Park Ridge has played host to the event. Chicagoland's *Champion of Champions* invitational golf tournament was first played in 1933 under the auspices of the Chicago District Golf Association (CDGA) and was held annually at various clubs until 1984. Park Ridge revived the tournament in 1998 and has been its annual host ever since. Invitations are extended to all champions of private golf clubs and select public facilities in the Greater Chicagoland Area, along with the CDGA Mid-Am and Senior-Am champions and winners of the past ten Champion of Champions tournaments.

Once again, the Park Ridge Country Club's grounds and clubhouse staffs joined with the golf staff and tournament committee to create a compelling venue for the competition. Moreover, the dozens of Club member volunteers once again made their invaluable contribution to the event's ambience, welcoming the players at their arrival, managing the leader boards, and walking as real-time scorers with each pairing.

Finally, the CDGA has remained a key supporter of the event, as has the Western Golf Association (WGA), who donated the traveling trophy for display at the home club of the winner.

By John "Boots" Larson

For additional information, contact:

Jim Stonebridge 773-456-7448

Rick Strotman 847-363-3166

Richard Peterson 847-698-3305

John Larson 847-345-5284

Richard E. Peterson

Champion of Champions Golf Tournament

Park Ridge Country Club

September 30, 2021

Final Scores

6650yards  
Par 70

2021

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68	Jason	Buffone	Sanctuary Golf Course		Larry	Silvestri	The Grove Country Club
70	T. J.	Blakemore	Medinah Country Club	79	David	Blechman	Bryn Mawr Country Club
	Mark	Small	Prestwick Country Club		Terry	Gallaher	Midlothian Country Club
71	Grant	Goltz	Black Sheep Golf Club		Chuck	Malik	Biltmore Country Club
	Chadd	Slutzky	Royal Fox Golf Club		Sid	Suwanski	Crystal Lake Country Club
	Grant	Whybark	Morris Country Club		Brad	Walker	Heritage Oaks Golf Club
72	Larry	Elbaum	Briarwood Country Club	80	Michael	Aulenta	Rolling Green Country Club
	Kevin	Magner	Indian Hill Club		Bobby	Findlay	Crystal Tree G. & C. C.
	Knox	Montgomery	Lake Geneva Country Club		Joe	Flowers	Cress Creek Country Club
73	Ryan	Anetsberger	Butler National Golf Club		Stino	Milito	Park Ridge Country Club
74	Joe	Emerich	Stonebridge Country Club		Stephen	Smith	Kemper Lakes Golf Club
	Anthony	Fowler	Flossmoor Country Club		Ryan	Sullivan	Ruth Lake Country Club
	Michael	Hurwitz	Sunset Ridge Country Club		Jeff	Werstak	Winnetka Golf Club
	Michael	McCormick	Oak Park Country Club	81	Kevin	Fetzer	LaGrange Country Club
	Mike	Rice	Inverness Golf Club		Ralph	Houck	Deerfield Golf Club
	Andrew	Vitt	Exmoor Country Club		Kevin	Kunde	Wilmette Golf Club
75	Kurt	Hintz	Elgin Country Club		Doug	Meyer	Ivanhoe Club
	Blake	Johnson	'17 C of C Champ [Glen View]		Mike	Treitler	Ravinia Green Country Club
	Bruce	Orns	Bowes Creek Country Club		Dan	Valenti	North Shore Country Club
	Jim	Roche Jr.	Gleneagles Country Club		Dan	Vidimos	Innsbrook Country Club
	Tom	Sweetwood	McHenry Country Club	82	Pero	Ogrizovich	Briar Ridge Country Club
	Wyatt	Wagner	Bull Valley Golf Club		Scott	Sternheimer	Lost Dunes Golf Club
	Ryan	Wells	Lincolnshire Country Club		Patrick	Wagoner	Olympia Fields Country Club
76	Marty	Hynes	'15 C of C Champ [Ridge]	83	Miles	Kirkpatrick	Ridge Country Club
	Alberto	Moriondo	'14 CofC Champ [Kemper Lake]		Teddy	Stuebi	Dunes Club
	Steve	Sawtell	Merit Club	84	Brian	Hogan	Long Beach Country Club
77	Richard	Balla	St. Charles Country Club		Brad	Kerkman	Indian Oaks Golf Club
	Mike	Comstock	Royal Melbourne	85	Bob	Doerr	Prairie Landing Golf Club
	Ryan	Cuitino	'18 C of C Champ [Morris]	86	Mark	Gappa	Bartlett Hills Golf Club
	Ryan	Kowalski	CDGA [Mid Am Champ]	87	Gary	Colabuono	The Arboretum Club
	Ian	McGregor	Wynstone Golf Club		Jeff	Golman	Northmoor Country Club
	Christian	Novay	Eagle Brook Country Club				
	Ted	Pecora	'19 C of C Champ [Bob O'Link]				
	Jon	Zolecki	Harborside Intl Golf Center				
78	Terry	Levy	Steeple Chase Golf Club				
	Chris	Misiak	Itasca Country Club				
	Ben	Putka	The Club at Strawberry Creek				
	Matt	Shipley	White Eagle Golf Club				