

## OLYMPIA FIELD'S MIKE SLAVEN SETS NEW SCORING RECORD WITH A FOUR SHOT VICTORY IN THE 2013 CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS TOURNAMENT

Playing on a perfect day for golf, with sunny skies, temperature in the mid 70s, and a gentle breeze from the southeast, Mike Slaven of Olympia Fields Country Club, Olympia Fields, Illinois, played an almost perfect round



to win the *Champion of Champions* golf tournament featuring the individual champions of private golf clubs in the Chicago metropolitan area. Slaven's score of three under par 67, a new record low for this event, was one better than the previous tournament record but the most remarkable thing was that it came despite a quadruple bogey 9 on the short par 5 fourth hole. Had he just made a bogey on that hole, Slaven would also have beaten the all-time Park Ridge course record of 65.



Overcoming a quad on one hole obviously requires extraordinary effort elsewhere, and six birdies and an eagle on the par 5 10<sup>th</sup> hole more than offset the adverse effects of an unplayable lie, an out of bounds, and a 3 putt on #4, plus another bogey at the seventh hole. Asked about his thoughts after finishing the fourth hole, Slaven said he remained upbeat, telling himself he was still just two over par thanks to birdies at holes 2 and 3 and the fact

that he was rolling his putts with great confidence. If the essence of golf is overcoming adversity, then Slaven certainly proved to have the right mindset.

As play progressed, it soon became a contest between two former tournament champions, Slaven, winner in 2011, playing in the second to last group, and Ted Pecora of Bob O' Link Golf Club, champion in 2012, in the final group. Both were two under par through #11 but Pecora slipped to one over with a bogey on the par 3 12<sup>th</sup>. Both parred the difficult dog leg par four 16<sup>th</sup> hole, then Slaven made a right to left 8' sliding putt for birdie on the lengthy par three 17<sup>th</sup> while Pecora carded a par on the same hole after his bid for birdie came up just short. After that, Slaven played the double dog leg 18th conservatively. His approach shot left him a 20' uphill putt which he proceeded to send some 3' past the pin; he then rolled in a slippery three footer for his par four. Pecora, to have any chance to catch Slaven, had to hit a risky second shot to a pin tucked back right on the 18<sup>th</sup> green, but he came up short and right in a greenside bunker, then left the ensuing bunker shot in the high grass short of the pin. After a treacherous chip left Pecora some distance past the pin, the ensuing two putts resulted in a disappointing double bogey, and he finished one over par 71 for a three way second place tie with Kyle Nathan of Exmoor Country Club and Dan Valenti of North Shore Country Club.

Mike Slaven is the third member of Olympia Fields to win the *Champion of Champions*, with Mike Mortell winning twice in 2000 and 2001, Mark Faulds in 2005, and now Slaven's two victories making it five wins for the south side suburban venue in the sixteen years the tournament has been played since Park Ridge Country Club became its permanent home.



While Mike Slaven was the record setting winner, our course also earned high praise from the players. The teeing areas and fairways were groomed to perfection and the greens rolled smoothly, although competitors had to be careful with approach shot placement and especially cautious with downhill and sidehill putts in consideration of the fast greens with their slippery slopes and subtle breaks.