

PLAYOFF DETERMINES THIS YEAR'S CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

On a beautiful early fall day, virtually perfect for golf, with temperatures in the mid 70's and just the whisper of a breeze, Marty Hynes of Chicago's Ridge Country Club outlasted Jason Chojnacki of Prestwick Country Club, Frankfort, IL, in a three-hole playoff to win the 2015 Champion of Champions tournament marking the 17th year it has been played at Park Ridge Country Club.



16th Hole Leader Board
L – R: Jenny Perry, Linda Buggy

Both finished in regulation at one under par 69 after each led most of the first eighteen at three under. Both stumbled over Park Ridge's "Last Mile," the difficult 15th through 18th holes. In Chojnacki's case a birdie at the long 3 par 17 was offset by double bogey at the par 4 18th, while later, Hynes, who went into 17 with a two stroke lead at 3 under, finished with bogeys at 17 and 18, thus necessitating a three-hole cumulative score playoff over the 10th, 17th, and 18th holes.

On the par 5 10th hole, the first in the playoff, Hynes hit his third shot to within 6 feet of the pin but had his birdie putt spin out. Chojnacki left his 3rd shot out of the front cross bunker just short of the green, then hit a first putt some 6 feet below the hole but lipped out his attempt for a tying par. Score: Hynes 5, Chojnacki 6.



L-Marty Hynes R-Jason Chojnacki

On the lengthy 3 par 17th, Hynes looked as if he might be in trouble with his tee shot short and in the right hand bunker while Chojnacki was on the green a bit above the hole and some 12 feet left. However, Hynes made a saving up and down par with a clutch putt after hitting his bunker shot some 5 feet below the hole, while Chojnacki's birdie putt came up a tad short. Score: Hynes 8, Chojnacki 9.

Both players hit perfect drives into the center of the fairway on the 18th hole--a 434 yard dogleg par 4--with Hynes some 170 yards from the pin and Chojnacki five yards closer. Hynes' approach came just onto the 18th green, leaving a lengthy 35 foot uphill putt, while Chojnacki's second shot ran through the green and wound up above the hole at the edge of the long rough. Hynes hit his long birdie putt 7 feet short of the hole, while Chojnacki's putt from off the green jumped as it came off the fringe and left him with a slick six footer for his par. Hynes attempt for par slid by, with his subsequent tap-in resulting in a bogey. Chojnacki now had an opportunity to tie the playoff and send it to a sudden death extension going back to 18 tee. However, there was no replay of 18 as Chojnacki's 6 footer for par also slid by, equaling Hynes' bogey on the hole, but totaling one more cumulative stroke in the three-hole playoff. Final score in the playoff: Hynes 13, Chojnacki 14

Marty Hynes played briefly on the St. Ambrose University Golf Team but essentially learned his golf closer to home. He has an unorthodox style, similar to that of Allen Doyle, the Champions Tour player who enjoyed considerable success in the early 2000's: a flat "wristy" swing out of a low crouch. While unorthodox, it is also very accurate, as Hynes demonstrated with his play throughout the tournament. Allen Doyle claimed he swung that way because he had been a hockey player in his youth. In Hynes case, the explanation was as unorthodox as his swing: As a youngster he practiced swinging in the basement of his home and, because of its low ceiling, he had to keep the club low back and through the ball. However it came about, Marty's game is a classic example of the old adage: "It's not how, but how many." In his case, "how many" proved to be the winning number and we hope to see that unique swing competing for another Champion of Champions trophy in 2016.

Thanks to the beautiful fall weather and the outstanding work of Park Ridge's Grounds Superintendent Joel Purpur and his crew the course was in excellent shape. Many participants remarked favorably on the course grooming and the condition of the greens.

Chicagoland's *Champion of Champions* invitational golf tournament for men was first played in 1933, and was held annually at various clubs until 1984. Park Ridge CC revived the tournament in 1998 and has hosted it annually ever since with the exception of 2001 when the course was closed for remodeling. The traveling trophy to be displayed at the home club of the winner was donated by the Western Golf Association (WGA).



**Marty Hynes - Ridge Country Club
2015 Winner
Champion of Champions Golf Tournament**