

Junior PGA

Royer's Lessons Work

By **BILL EICHENBERGER**

Telegraph Staff Writer

Five years ago when he became head pro at Bull Creek Golf Club in Columbus, Hugh Royer made a commitment to junior golf.

His son, Hugh III, was eight years old at the time and was showing an interest in the game. So Royer, who had just retired after a number of years on the PGA tour, began the task of tutoring his young son.

Hugh III didn't win the 12- and 13-year-old division in the Georgia Section PGA Junior golf championships at Riverside Country Club Wednesday. He finished fourth to winner Eric Redheffer of Macon, Forsyth's Sonny Trammell and Louis Brown of Newnan.

But two other members of Royer's junior entourage, Johnny Hammond and Michael Miller, did win, carting off the overall individual title and the 16- and 17-year-old crown.

Hammond, a 15-year-old sophomore at Hardaway High, took overall honors with a 36-hole total of 142, two under par. And Miller, a 16-year-old junior at Hardaway, captured his age group crown with a two-round score of 144, even par.

Wright Waddell, another Bull Creek junior, placed second to Hammond in the 14- and 15-year-old division with a 36-hole score of 148.

Hammond's overall victory took everyone but Royer by complete surprise. "I knew Johnny was a threat to win any junior tournament he entered. He's not that much better than my other juniors. What sets him apart is that he



Hugh Royer



Johnny Hammond

works harder than they do.

"He's not afraid to shoot a low score. A lot of young players will shoot par and be satisfied with that. Not Johnny. He shot a 69 in the final round of the Southern Cross to win the individual title there," Royer explained.

Miller, who along with Hammond and three other talented golfers led Hardaway to the AAA golf title this season, had to shoot a one-under-par 71 Wednesday to edge Brunswick's Scott Morgan for the 16- and 17-year-old crown.

"Mike won medalist honors at the AAA state tourney," Royer pointed out. "But for most of the regular season, he had to fight for the number six spot on Hardaway's

golf roster. That's how strong Hardaway was this season."

Not coincidentally, four of Hardaway's first six golfers learned the game from Royer at Bull Creek.

"Maybe when Hugh III gets older I'll lose my interest in junior golf. But I really doubt that. Working with kids is the best security a golf pro can have," Royer explained.

"These kids' parents at Bull Creek have been super too. They support me and my program. When one of my juniors needs new equipment, they don't go to K-Mart. His parents come and buy

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Redheffer Wins Junior Title

A one-under-par 71 Wednesday gave Michael Miller of Columbus a two-round total of 144 and the title in the 16 and 17 year old division of the PGA Junior Golf Championships.

Miller's even-par total over the Riverside Country Club course was one stroke better than Brunswick's Scott Morgan.

Eric Redheffer of Macon won the 12 and 13 year old age group with a one-hole playoff win over Columbus' Sonny Trammel.

Johnny Hammond took overall honors with a total of 142 — two under par — and won the 14 and 15 year old division by six strokes over his closest competitor.



Eric Redheffer

Sports Scene

The singles tournament will be divided into juniors (12-18 years old), young adults (19-35 years old), adults (35-45 years old) and senior adults (45 and over). Play begins on June 22 for the juniors and on June 25-26 for the adults. Entries close on June 21. Fee is \$1 and players must bring a can of balls. Participants may sign up at Bloomfield or the Macon Tennis Center at Tattnall Square.

The clinic will be held Saturday, June 18 at Bloomfield.

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