

Bookie's Blog, by Cuba

May 17, 2012. There were several reasons why I renewed my passion for golf after a 15-year hiatus. Foremost was the discovery of the Slammer Tour, the variety of courses and the expediency of having my golf arranged for me by simply hitting the "Inski" button.

The reason why I continue to participate with unencumbered enthusiasm is because of the experience of hanging out with quality people who, by allowing me to be part of the Slammer experience, provide a remarkable opportunity to meet new folks and strengthen or stress friendships. Thank you all for my dismal match-play record so far.

As of Sunday May 13, Mothers Day, we have played 43 Slammer Tour events compared to last year — just 31 up to about the same date. The year prior to that was 35 and before that, 30. It's as if the warm and sunny weather of the weekend of the Ottawa-Gatineau Golf Expo decided to smile on our little valley and our early start never stopped.

We are largely dependent on the weather for the size of the field at an early season event, but equally or more important are the courses offered through the year.

Manderly, Les Vieux Moulins and Dragonfly are new this year, and there are now events basically every day of the week, and even more on weekend days. It's a good thing because as the events increase in number, the new Slammers seem to be joining exponentially.

I was a rookie in 2009, which other 09'ers proclaim as the ultimate rookie year. That perennial controversy is officially over, because there are not just a few rookies, there are many rookies in every level of Slammer competition, and they bring some serious game.

I looked back at the results of events over this year, and even past years, because I have no life and nothing better to do, and found the three stars of so many events being dominated by rookies.

I can assure you that as an event OC, I have never been influenced to select a star on anything but match-play golf and Slammer competition criteria.



Ottawa Sun Rookies of The Year

You? (2012)

Popeye (2011)

Blue (2010)

Cuba (2009)

PinSeeker (2008)

Malone (2007)

MadMax (2006)

Kricket (2005)

Ticklar (2004)



slammertour.com

These "rookies" are not golf newcomers and no match can be taken lightly. On any given day, the class of 2012 refuses to be intimidated and are taking home bones for their dogs and skins, and points and more dogs for winning matches.

They are chatting it up, putting up with some of our offbeat golf humour, curious doggie markers, and providing memorable notables and quotables. Personally, I can't wait for Spud to heal to get another shot at him, and to find out how to hit it like Pipeline and learn to win like Chill, Toothfairy and SmallPak, or hit it as far as BigTee. Likewise, with Ricko, it will be interesting to see if he'll come up with yet another rejected new Slammer name.

I've never played with Wally, Hawk, RayRay, PokerFace, Ghost, Polo, Boxer, Snake, Try4Par, Shorts, MeekaGolf, Harley, Guinness — and many others — but I really hope to soon and often. It's only mid May of a so far memorable year and I can't wait until my next event.

Congratulations to the Slammers who teed it up in the first "major" of the year with a field of over 40 at Loch March during the EG Opener. Soon the Tour Championships begin and Commish's Cup teams will be selected by regional qualifying — and last year's winners will have to give up their reserved parking to Team Central, this year's favourite.

Look for new doggie ball markers by Cuba and Grumpy. The rules for these markers are that they fit in your golf bag, weigh less than a brick, not be animated or movable by remote, and be silent. They cannot look like a skull or pizza slice because those are taken!

Lastly, congratulations to overall #1 Woodsy, after seven events — still undefeated!

— Cuba, #25.