The 2000 Lake City Alumni Endowment Committee helped organize and run an event which raised $14,000 for their alma mater. From left, front row: Mike Smith, John Piersol, Scott Hamm and Dick Bessire; back row: David Fry, John Johnson and Glenn Zakany. Photo by Robert Toski.

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One hundred and forty-plus players in the two-man scramble event were greeted at 8 a.m. by a thick fog that added to an already demanding golf course. Once the fog cleared the weather was absolutely perfect and the festivities wonderful.

Tim Pratt, our host superintendent, and his staff did a magnificent job of preparing the golf course. Gulf Harbour was in excellent condition and proved to be a challenging test of golf. Preparing a golf course for 140 of your peers is not an easy job, especially when you consider several of the greens on the back nine were not sprigged until October. Congratulations, Tim, on a fantastic job.

This year’s tournament raised more than $14,000 for the Lake City Endowment Fund. Thanks to your support, Lake City Community College progresses into the 21st century as it continues to fuel the industry with golf course superintendents, service technicians, and irrigation technicians. It remains one of the most comprehensive training programs in the industry.

Because of government funding cutbacks it takes our support to help keep Lake City at the top.

It takes a lot of hard work to organize a tournament of this magnitude. Special thanks goes out the Tournament committee who once again did an excellent job. David Fry and Glenn Zakany, co-chairmen, Scott Hamm, Dick Bessire, John Johnson, Odell Spainhour, and Mike Smith. Thanks also goes out to all the raffle prize contributors, WCI Communities for providing us with the facility and to Jim Hafner and his staff for their wonderful hospitality.

MIKE HAMILTON Foxfire CC

GLO Alumni Raise $14,000 for Program

LAKE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Everglades GCSA members served as spotter and scorers for NBC Sports at the PGA Tour’s Father & Son Tournament held at Twin Eagles CC in Naples on December 4-5, 1999. Left to right: James Brinkmeyer, Jim Wahlin, Darren Davis and Trevor Brinkmeyer from Olde Florida GC; Steve Simpson, Wesco Turf; Bill Davidson, Collier’s Reserve; Rick Tatum, Mike Anderson and David Pugel from Shadow Wood CC. Not pictured: Dale Walters, Royal Palm CC; Terry Wood, Royal Wood G&CC and Glenn Zakany, Golf Ventures, Inc.

Country Club in Naples. The call went out and a dozen EGCSA members stepped up to lend a hand in the production of this popular event.

Some of the well-known PGA Tour fathers who brought along their sons were Jack Nicklaus, Raymond Floyd, Tom Kite, Lee Trevino and Hale Irwin.

Coincidentally, the Twin Eagles design was also a father-and-son collaboration of Jack Nicklaus senior and junior. They must have had unfair advantage because they were the eventual winners.

Congratulations to superintendent Greg Maze and his assistant, Jason DeMartino, for having the golf course in superb condition for the tournament.

The EGCSA members who assisted in the two-day assignment as spotters and scorers were Darren Davis, Trevor Brinkmeyer, Jim Whalin and Jim Brinkmeyer from Olde Florida GC; Rick Tatum, David Pagel and Mike Anderson from Shadow Wood CC; Dale Walters from Royal Palm CC; Terry Wood from Royal Wood G&CC; Bill Davidson of the Collier’s Reserve; Glenn Zakany of Golf Ventures and Steve Simpson from Wesco Turf. Here are some of their comments about the experience:

Rick Tatum: I thought it was a great experience. The intensity that goes along with one of these productions was incredible. I can't remember the last time I felt that type of pressure.

I would love to participate with helping NBC any time they need us. Listening to the background conversations and directions was quite entertaining. I certainly watch golf on TV from a different perspective now.

Glenn Zakany: The most fun of the NBC experience was listening to how they put the broadcast together through the headphones. It made the day even more enjoyable. I will definitely do it again next year.

Dale Walters: I was at "scoring central." My job was to record scores and pass them along to the TV people plus check and verify any discrepancies between NBC and the volunteers.

I was surprised that we were really important for NBC to have a quality event.

I heard all the info being called in by the NBC and Office Depot volunteers. The combination of the two clarify any doubts in scores or stats. It was very interesting and I would do it again.

Darren Davis
Olde Florida GC

Editor's Note: Central Florida, North Florida, Palm Beach and South Florida chapter members will also be serving as TV spotters for tournaments this year.