

FOURSOME WITH RIGHT INGREDIENTS REPEATS BEACON TOURNAMENT WIN

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ST. THOMAS - If there is a proven method for success in best-ball golf tournaments, it usually involves a mixture of skill levels that assures that the team has a healthy handicap as well as a couple of good golfers.

It is a mix that Yellow Pages team members Dave Sharp, Dwight McInturff and William Anderson have down cold. They joined celebrity baseball player Clifford Johnson on Sunday in winning the eighth annual Beacon Celebrity Golf Tournament for the second year in a row.

The tournament at Mahogany Run Golf Course wrapped up a week of events, which included a basketball clinic, a gala dinner and a silent auction.

"We are a dynasty," joked McInturff, whose handicap of 33 helped his team win with a net score of 49. "We are also three guys who know how to pick a celebrity."

McInturff said that teammate and former Major League slugger Clifford Johnson "hits drives about 400 yards."

Julius "Dr. J" Erving watches while teammate Vincent Anderson chips a shot during the Beacon Schools Celebrity Golf Tournament at Mahogany Run Golf Course.

Johnson proved it, hitting the longest drive of the tournament on hole No. 3.

The second-place team of Eldon Providence, Winter Good, Carl Christensen and celebrity Georges Rogers gave chase with a 51 net.

The team of Brad Stanley, Cody Jones, Peter Kaiser and George Marsh also finished with a 51 net but lost on a scorecard tiebreaker.

In fourth place were Sam Topp, Eric Johnson, Steve Miller and Michael Wilsher with a net 53. A tiebreaker found Susan Seipel, Peter Seipel, Hellen Smollett and D'Andre White in fifth place.

Judy Payne, Andy Puppe, McInturff, Robert Hosey and Vincent Anderson all got a shot at \$1 million in a hole-in-one challenge, which they qualified for by hitting closest to the pin on the course's par three holes.

None of them even hit the green on the infamous No. 14 in the Devil's Triangle as a steady trade wind blasted the golfers on their hole-in-one attempts.

Barbara O'Briend hit the long drive of the day for the women on No. 9.

But while golf was the game of the day, the real business was in raising funds for Beacon Schools of the Virgin Islands.

Through many sponsors, a silent auction and donations, Beacon Schools raised \$92,000 last year. Organizers hope that once the funds are counted, this year's event, which featured 28 celebrities and 30 golf teams, will surpass \$100,000.

Beacon Schools offer after-school programs in a safe, positive environment that foster literacy, youth mentoring, and computer, athletic, parenting, music and dance skills.

"We could not have this program if it were not for the support of our sponsors and entrants," said Beacon Schools Executive Director Diane Parker.