

2026

U15 & U13



August 17-18
Alberta Springs Golf Resort

*Golf's future stars look to
make their mark at*

Alberta Springs

By Jim Clagget

The future of the game of golf will be on display this summer at Alberta Springs Golf Resort, and you won't need a crystal ball, Tarot cards, or a psychic to see it. Just make the trip along the QE Two, turn west on Highway 20 and you will find the host course on the south side of the highway. There, you can see for yourself what the future holds for the game.

The course will host the U15 and U13 provincial championships August 17-18, which is something it's very familiar with, having hosted the former Alberta U17, U15, & U13 championships for years.



"We're no stranger to hosting young kids out there because we've been doing it for the past five years now," said assistant pro Jaxon Lynn.

He says the two-day showdown does not differ from any other Alberta Golf event, with no special requirements needed for the players. Show up, know the rules, the etiquette, and play your best.

"For the most part, the kids are very appreciative when they come here. Our members enjoy having younger kids here. It's nice to see the next generation playing golf out here." Those members will be the source of the cadre of volunteers to keep things running smoothly. Alberta Golf will handle the rules officials, but it will be the members who will take care of registration, scorekeepers, spotters, and starters.

Lynn says anyone strolling around the course over those two days will watch the young men and women play very good golf. The game has progressed to the point where age is not a requirement for skill level. To borrow from the marketing phrase by the PGA Tour, these kids can play.

He didn't focus on one aspect of the sport, which could be responsible for the level of talent rising. He feels the popularity of the game has grown and with it so has the interest from all corners. The young players are finding it attractive, and golf courses have been steadily moving towards making juniors feel more at home on the course.

The young competitors will face certain challenges to their game during their round, especially when they hit the stretch of holes starting with #10 and ending with hole #12, says Lynn.

"The scoring average is usually pretty high on 10,11 and 12 and with younger players not being able to play the hole the way it was designed," he said. "With some forced carries, it might be a little tougher."

The iconic par-five # 4 will also test the mettle of these players. From the tee box, the green on this dogleg right is almost directly opposite you as you get set to hit your drive. The problem is all those very tall trees and a good-sized body of water that are blocking your access.

The trick is a good tee shot, which could land you about two hundred yards from the green, which slopes from front to back and carries your ball towards the left-hand side. Birdie is possible, but Lynn says you can also mark down a double bogey or worse if you are not careful.

Alberta Golf will take care of the setup, but Lynn says from the white tees players will face navigating their way over 5900 yards of real estate and if the older group moves back to the blue tee boxes, add another four hundred yards to that total.

Lynn says because these budding golf stars play in a variety of competitive golf levels, they are used to the rules and the etiquette, so he doesn't expect to see any major issues arising from those areas but if something comes up, help is not far away.

"Back when I played, this age might have been a little weaker, but I feel that golf has taken such a step forward that now all ages have good kids in every age group now," said Lynn.

Holding the tournament in late August will provide the players with excellent scoring conditions at Alberta Springs.

"The course will be set up so these kids can go low because the course will be in such good shape," said Lynn. "The greens are always pretty

fast, but they should have no excuses in a way."

Lynn did his best crystal ball gazing and predicted scores for the U15 could be in red figures while the U13 players may stay close to even par.

Yep, they can play all right. ■