

The MPS Golf Outing At The 2004 Prostar World Finals

By Dan Rudd



A big blue sky and blazing sun greeted us on a beautiful morning in Gainesville, Florida. It's 7:00 AM on Thursday morning before the AMA/Prostar World Finals. We have assembled at Ironwood Golf Course to see who is the most fun golfer in motorcycle drag racing. A foursome of arguably the worst golfers on the continent competing for their respective country. Mike "Happy" Konopacki, one of the winningest sportsman racers of all time and his crewman Jerry representing the Great White North of Canada. Scott Valletti, of Dragbike.com and Dan Rudd, of MPS representing the USA racers. We had another foursome of players scheduled to play with us, but they were all missing in action in the morning. Later, we found that Paul Gast's clubs were still in Charlotte, NC. George Bryce was on the road between Americus and Gainesville. Everyone that made it looks pretty good considering the time and the distance we all traveled to get here. Mike and Jerry definitely get the long distance award. However, they cheated and played the course on Tuesday and Wednesday. Scott and I were at a disadvantage right off.



On the first hole the Canadians were already having problems. Jerry lost his clubs off the cart onto the cart path. This however gave them the clear lead for the most fun golfer title.



This Coast Guard plane kept flying over testing our ability to concentrate. You think drag bikes are loud? You should here those four engines a few hundred feet over your head. Scott was by far the best putter of the crowd. Proving his finesse on the greens by holing several from 20 plus feet. Here "Happy" Konopacki is seen getting some putting advice.



Scott had a few really tough shots. He actually put the one next to the tree on the green from 150 yards away. It did cost him a 3 iron though! He also helped our cause by running over Mike's ball. What was really funny was that Mike didn't even know it. He just kicked the ball out of the hole and continued to play.



As you can see we spent lots of time playing from the rough. We all had a great time and concluded that we had played to a draw. We were all fun golfers! We left the course vowing to play again next year! So, all of you wannabe golfers remember to take some time off next year to play.