

## Tip of the hat to Zach Johnson and friends

Written by Bob Brooks

Thursday, 04 August 2011 18:40 - Last Updated Friday, 05 August 2011 06:42

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This week, a little bit about a lot of things.

First, I can't imagine a first-time athletic event going any better or being more successful than the Zach Johnson Foundation Classic at Elmcrest Country Club this past Monday. My congratulations to all the people involved in the pro-am, especially the volunteers who were so courteous and helpful to the patrons.

It is always amazing to see great golfers perform. And they did, but they also were great entertainers and public relations experts during their time on the expertly managed golf course.

A \$1 million boost for the foundation made it a sweet day for the folks in eastern Iowa, who now can say that Zach Johnson, Davis Love, Ricky Fowler, Jonathan Byrd and their celebrity friends played here.

I am sure the committee is already looking forward to July 31, 2012, for the second edition of this event. Elmcrest also showed that the golf course can hold more spectators than they thought, and that's one area I should imagine would be increased next year.

Again, a tip of the fedora to all those involved.

**MOVING RIGHT ALONG**, it's high school football time. Practices are starting, and the Metro Sports Report and yours truly wish the best for the Cedar Valley Christian School as it takes up the game of eight-man football.

New and remodeled stadiums will debut in the Metro area this year. I had a tour the other day of the new Linn-Mar facility, and I can't imagine that there is a better place for high school teams to play than the new home of the Lions. An elevator to the press box at a high school football

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game is certainly a rarity, and I look forward to using the new gadget at the Linn-Mar stadium.

Cedar Rapids Prairie is getting ready to introduce its remodeled facility as the Hawks prepare to open their season against Cedar Rapids Washington, complete with a new artificial playing surface at Prairie.

And a reminder to all coaches, the heat of the Iowa summer and the increased awareness of concussions should be a part of your daily routine to keep track of the players. We don't want any tragedies to ruin a high school season.

**MOVING TO BASEBALL**, a tip of the fedora to Austin Christensen of Cedar Rapids Kennedy for being named the captain of the Class 4A all-state team by the Iowa Newspaper Association. And with that in mind, the season is winding down for the Cedar Rapids Kernels. Don't forget to visit the ballpark and take advantage of a pro game before the season ends. They deserve your support.

That's enough preaching for today.