



Top Left: PPA Chairman Joe Aboid (center) welcomes amateurs Olivia Prokopova and Adam Samhel. **Top Right:** Putt-Putt Golf Champion Tony Varnadore hoists his trophy. **Above:** Mini-golfers enjoy one of Orange Lake Resort's scenic Putt-Putt holes.

Professional Putters Compete in Paradise

Orange Lake Resort plays host to the 50th Annual Putt-Putt Golf Championship

Orange Lake Resort recently hosted the 50th Annual Professional Putters Association (PPA) Championship Putt-Putt® Golf tournament, the fourth time for the resort. The 12-round event took place September 14–19, 2009, at the resort's 36-hole championship Putt-Putt Golf course, the only one in Central Florida built for official tournament play.

From a field of more than 110 participants from across the United States and as far away as the Netherlands, Tony Varnadore emerged as the tournament champion at 140 under par. However, the tournament was about more than just winning and losing.

Adam Samhel of Huffman, TX—once ranked as the #2 amateur in the

state—played with a walker due to his cerebral palsy, but thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of competing.

"I've been playing [Putt-Putt] since I was 11 years old," Samhel said, "and to this day, it's the one game that makes me feel like one of the guys because I can play competitively at their level."

Meanwhile, 14-year-old mini-golf phenom Olivia Prokopova of the Czech Republic, currently ranked in the world's top 10 female mini-golfers, had a great time vacationing and splashing around at River Island with her father after the tournament.

"Everything was just right for the tournament," said PPA Chairman Joe Aboid. "Great weather, great turnout from the PPA members, and a host site with fantastic customer service and amazing grounds. Thanks to everyone at the resort who made our 50th annual tournament the best we've had yet."