



Duffer Dan & the Undercover Gang at



It was New Year's Eve Day and we wanted to celebrate. What a perfect place to play particularly on this festive afternoon. Celebration Golf Club is a synonym for perfection.

From the moment we arrived, we received top-notch treatment. While the player assistant was removing our golf bags he noticed my soft spikes were worn down and suggested that he replace them while I checked in at the well merchandised and beautifully appointed Pro shop.

After getting our golf car I stopped in to say hello to Kenny Nairn who is in charge of the Celebration Golf Academy. Kenny and his fine staff of PGA instructors have all the latest equipment and a great facility at Celebration to help you improve your game or start you in the right direction if you are just beginning. In fact, they have a great Junior Program that they are very excited about. While we were waiting to get to the first tee and warming up putting, I watched one of the instructors with a group of youngsters on their short 3-hole course. The group was having a good time celebrating the game of golf.

Because of the holiday the rest of the Gang was off doing their own celebrating. I am sure when they find out we were at Celebration, they will be dismayed. So, it was just the Duffer and the Dufferess. We hooked up with Ted Camp from Golf USA, who owns a golf store in The Villages, and his friend.

The Celebration golf course is a father and son design collaboration from none other than Robert Trent Jones and Robert Trent Jones Jr. The 6786-yard layout is a great test of golf with 5 sets of tees. In fact the forward tees are designed for anyone who wants to play the course as a par 3, 18 holes. The Club is rated 4-1/2 stars in Golf Digest's "Best Places to Play, 2004-2005" and the recipient of the "2004 Osceola Business of the Year" from the Chamber of Commerce of Kissimmee/Osceola County. When asked to comment on the award, Gene Garrote, General Manager at Celebration said, "I believe our strong commitment to serving the Central Florida community, our guests and our employees is what made the

difference. We don't have one CEO, we have 87 CEOs, our co-workers." Water comes into play on a lot of the holes, but there are safe areas to land if you are a strategic duffer. I kept the ball dry most of the day because of some previous experiences here. Unfortunately, I didn't stay out of all the hazards. I thought I could cut the corner on the par5 12th hole and the 15th, a par 4, but came up empty which tends to show up on the scorecard as a big number. If you got awards for big numbers, I would be in contention.

The front nine plays out near the town of Celebration, while the back nine brings you into a closer relationship with Mother Nature. I can't say which nine I favor, but I do know there is a halfway house at the clubhouse where you can acquire your favorite beverage and snacks. Comfort stations are placed in strategic areas so you have access twice on either side, and the cart service visited with us numerous times so we could warm up to the Eve's celebration.

The layout really gives the golfer 18 different looks, and each hole is as picturesque as it is challenging. It's interesting; I played my best golf on the #1 handicap hole 7, a long par 4 and the other tough holes while messing up on the easier ones. There is good reason the Buick Scramble Championship for 2004 was held here, and will be again in 2005. Robert Gamez has his annual Invitational Tournament at Celebration, also. It is also in the Top 200 courses in North America for Course conditioning and Standard of Service.

This article would not be complete without saying something about the Windmill Tavern and their meeting facilities. I have played in tournaments at Celebration and have enjoyed the excellent service and perfectly prepared meals here. If I had 6 duffer balls to award, they would be the one to receive them. Why not go and Celebrate Golf at Every Level.

Call 407-566-GOLF or 1-888-2-PLAY-18 or visit www.CELEBRATIONgolf.com.



Value Service Course Condition Facilities		<i>Duffer Dan and The Undercover Gang rate courses from the point of view of the regular player. Watch out – you never know when Duffer Dan has set his sights on you!</i>
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