

# Pint-sized pro taught by Coppell golf coach

## STAFF REPORT

Wesley Francis at the Riverchase Golf Club in Coppell has coached Kyle Cox, 5, of Carrollton for almost three years now. Francis' unending patience and tutelage has helped guide Kyle to a year and a half of winning.

Kyle's first tournament was in November 2004 when he was a little older than 4. He came in second against a 7- and 8-year-old golfers.

He competed in two Hank Haney Junior spring tournaments in March and April 2005 and won both of them in the 8 and younger division. He was still only 4.

When he turned 5, Kyle began competing at Wesley Francis' Junior Tournaments at Riverchase Golf Club and on the U.S. Kids Golf Local Tour. He won three of the Riverchase tournaments against the older boys and had a very successful summer with U.S. Kids. He won two tournaments, placed second in four and had two third place finishes in the 6- and- younger division. He also placed second at the State/World Qualifying Tournament and was invited to play at the nationally televised U.S. Kids Golf World Championship in Williamsburg, Va. Accompanied by Francis and his dad and caddy Paul Cox, he tied for 16th in a field of 76 boys from all over the United States and several countries. He received an award for a low round on the second day.

Last month, he went to Jekyll Island, Ga to compete in the U.S. Kids Regional Championship. Despite 20 to 30 mph winds and temps in the low 50s, Kyle shot a two-over par 38 and was tied for second. Playing in the elite final group, with calmer weather, Kyle shot a scorching four-under par 32 and won the tournament by 4 strokes.

He is the first 5-year-old to win this division and will therefore have an opportunity to defend his title next year. In the meantime, he is automatically qualified for the World Championship this summer, which is moving to historic Pinchurst and will meet honorary Master of Ceremony Arnold Palmer.

Everyone is grateful for Francis' support and coaching. Riverchase manager Eric Hood and his staff have also been hugely supportive and deserve acknowledgement for all they've done to help young Kyle play the best golf he can.

