

**LULLINGTON
TAKE PLACE
IN LAST FOUR**
PAGE 42

in association with
ROGER BULLIVANT
'Backing Local Sport'

SportMail

www.burtonmail.co.uk

YOUNG JAMES GRABS DREAM TICKET

Nine-year old prepares to test his skills in sunny San Diego

By Rex Page
rex.page@burtonmail.co.uk

GOLF starlet James Bailey has clinched a dream trip to California.

At the tender age of nine, the Barton schoolboy and his caddy — dad Phil — will be jetting off to San Diego to compete in the Calloway World Junior tournament in July.

The Thomas Russell Primary School pupil will face the best in the world in his age group after winning the UK qualifier at Wildwood Golf and Country Club, in Surrey.

James showed his staying power to win the 36-hole scratch event despite some stiff competition over two days.

At the end of the first day, he was tied at the top of the leaderboard, but he went on to win out-

right on the second day, finishing with the equivalent of an 18-under par card.

Proud dad Phil said: "It was a remarkable achievement that has made me and his mum (Angela) very proud.

"James is very proud of his win and is very much looking forward to travelling abroad to play in such a major event.

"Strangely, his sisters, Paige and Abigail, have suddenly developed an interest in golf with the prospect of being California Girls in the summer!"

James has played golf since he was four years old and has already reduced his handicap to 21.6 at Branston Golf and County Club — an excellent

achievement.

He is the youngest 18-hole member at Branston and last year picked up the 'most improved golfer' and 'outstanding achievement' awards at the club.

Last year, the Barton prodigy won his age group at the British Junior Golf Tour world final at Pestana Gremacho in Portugal.

He also attended the Lee Westwood Academy at Morley Hayes in Derby where he won the nine and under category — and met his golfing hero, who is currently the world number one.

His mum said: "James would love to play golf professionally and play against Lee before he moves on to the seniors tour."



Ferguson set to field strong side for clash with Blackpool

MANCHESTER United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has said he will field a strong team against relegation-threatened Blackpool tomorrow.

Blackpool have the hardest task of the five relegation candidates, with a trip to the Premier League champions.

Ferguson has one eye on next week's Champions League final but said he will not pick inexperienced players.

"Edwin van der Sar, Darren Fletcher, Patrice Evra, Paul Scholes, Anderson, Dimitar Berbatov will play," he said.

Blackpool are locked in a five-way battle with Blackburn Rovers, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Birmingham City and Wigan Athletic to avoid the final two relegation slots alongside West Ham United.

A win at Old Trafford would considerably improve Ian Holloway's side's prospects of top-flight football for next season — but no team has beaten Manchester United in the Premier League at home all season.

However, with United preparing to play Spanish champions Barcelona in the Champions League final at Wembley a week today, Ferguson could have been tempted to rest key players.

Holloway said Ferguson would be offended by suggestions that he did not want to win his side's final home game of the season.

And the Scot said he wants to end United's domestic season with victory to give Dutch keeper Van der Sar the perfect send-off before he retires.

"You should be criticised if you lose a game that affects other teams," said Ferguson.

"I remember we played Hull a couple of years ago and played a lot of young players but we won the game 1-0.

"For some reason the previous year, Neil Warnock found it easy to criticise us for losing to West Ham. But if he had seen the game we battered them, so it was a bit unfair."

Ferguson also confirmed he will play a number of his first-choice players in Gary Neville's testimonial match against Juventus on Tuesday.

"We have to think about that game because Gary has been a fantastic servant to this club," he said.

SUNDAY LEAGUE ROUND-UP >> PAGE 43

Di Canio takes over at Swindon in surprise move

PAOLO di Canio has been named as the new manager of Swindon Town.

The controversial former West Ham United striker has agreed terms and is expected to arrive at the County Ground on Monday.

Di Canio, 42, was one of eight candidates interviewed for the position by Swindon chairman Jeremy Wray.

It would be the Italian's first coaching job in England since he retired from playing in 2008.

He succeeds Paul Hart as the club's permanent manager, after the former Nottingham Forest and Portsmouth boss left last month following Swindon's relegation from League One.

SPORTING BYGONES
PAGE 40

Former player Paul Bodin was in charge of Swindon's final two games of the season.

Other contenders for the Swindon role were former Germany and Liverpool midfielder Dietmar Hamann, ex-Scotland boss George Burley and former Bristol Rovers boss Paul Trollope, among others.

Di Canio scored 48 goals in 118 appearances for West Ham after joining the London club for £1.7million from Sheffield Wednesday in 1999.

He began his career at Lazio, and also played for Juventus, Napoli, AC Milan, Celtic and Charlton.

As a player he regularly attracted

headlines.

Playing for Sheffield Wednesday in 1998, he pushed referee Paul Alcock to the ground after being sent off and was banned for 11 matches.

His volleyed goal against Wimbledon for West Ham in March 2000 was named by the BBC as their Goal of the Season, and in 2001 he won the Fifa Fair Play Award for catching the ball to ensure that injured Everton goalkeeper Paul Gerrard could receive treatment.

After returning to Lazio, he was pictured making a raised-arm fascist salute to a group of the club's supporters, and claimed to be "a fascist, not a racist".



Published by Staffordshire Newspapers Ltd, 65-68 High Street, Burton-on-Trent, DE14 1LE. Tel: (01283) 512345. Fax: (01283) 515351. Printed by Cambridge Newspapers Ltd. Price 45p.

Burton Mail
'The must-have handheld accessory for 2011'