

= Lucy Li =

Lucy Li (born October 1 , 2002) is an American female amateur golfer . She currently holds records as the youngest qualifier for the U.S. Women 's Amateur and the U.S. Women 's Open . She is the second youngest qualifier for the U.S. Women 's Amateur Public Links , but the youngest ever to advance to match play in that event . Li was an age group winner at the inaugural Masters Drive , Chip , and Putt Championship in Augusta , Georgia . She is currently a student of Jim McLean .

= = Background = =

Born in Stanford , California , Li now lives in Redwood Shores . Her father , Warren Li , is a San Francisco Bay Area computer consultant and stockbroker . Her mother , Amy Zeng , is a former Hewlett @-@ Packard employee . Warren and Amy were raised in China and moved to the United States from Australia in 1998 . Warren has a Ph.D. in computer science , while Amy has a master 's degree in the field . Lucy was born in 2002 . She lived with her Aunt Tao Zeng four months per year to train in Florida near Trump National Doral Miami and McLean 's Golf School . Li is homeschooled . She performs some of her schoolwork through independent study in the months she is in Florida .

Li took diving lessons at Stanford University and was platform diving from 10 metres (32 @.@ 8 ft) at age 4 . She was also active in gymnastics and music . Some sources claim that she began practicing at Mariners Point Golf Center at about age 4 or 5 , with informal coaching from her mother and Aunt . Other sources claim that she began playing golf at age 7 while watching her older brother Luke , a Princeton University student , who was hitting balls at a driving range . Li likes to tell the latter story , but Mariners Point head pro , Joby Ross , confirmed that at about 3 or 4 years old Li was very boisterous about her interest in the sport to the point of throwing tantrums when being asked to leave . At age 7 her parents called Jim McLean , who also coaches or has coached Lexi Thompson , Cristie Kerr , Keegan Bradley and Erik Compton , and arranged a visit to meet him at Doral . Afterwards , the family made summer living arrangements with her Aunt . Then , McLean began working with her . Li 's practice course is Cinnabar Hills in San Jose .

= = Career = =

Li holds record for youngest match @-@ play qualifier in U.S. Women 's Amateur Public Links history (10 years , 8 months , 16 days) , surpassing Michelle Wie 's 2000 record by a mere 7 days . Li was the second youngest qualifier in May 2013 for the U.S. Women 's Amateur Public Links before becoming the youngest to advance to match play that June . The lone person younger than Li was Allisen Corpuz , who qualified in 2008 .

She is also the youngest U.S. Women 's Amateur qualifier , surpassing Latanna Stone 's 2012 record age of 10 years , 11 months and 2 days by beginning the first day of the tournament at age 10 years , 10 months and 4 days old on August 5 , 2013 .

In 2014 , at the first ever Drive , Chip and Putt Championship on the Sunday preceding the 78th edition Masters Tournament at Augusta National Golf Club , she won the Girls 10 ? 11 age division . The event was televised on the Golf Channel and was sponsored by the United States Golf Association , Professional Golfers ' Association of America and Augusta National to increase youth participation in the sport . Over 10 @,@ 000 youth from over 110 sites participated in a qualification process that yielded 88 qualifiers from 8 age / gender brackets from each of 11 regions .

On May 19 , 2014 , she became the youngest (age 11) to qualify for the U.S. Women 's Open , surpassing Thompson 's record (12 years , 4 months , 18 days) from the 2007 Open . Notably , Li not only qualified , but she won her qualifying event by seven strokes at Old Course at Half Moon Bay Golf Links . Thompson missed the cut in 2007 with a 36 @-@ hole 168 total . Li was the second youngest to compete ; nine years prior to the introduction of qualification in 1976 , Beverly Klass played in the 1967 Open at age 10 years , 7 months , and 21 days . Although Li 's qualification was largely heralded , some were befuddled at the state of the sport when a sixth grader could even qualify for one of the most prestigious events of the year . Li , who had reached a 1 @.@ 5 handicap

by April , had a handicap better than threshold 2 @. @ 4 , making her eligible to participate in qualifications .

Li was 11 years , 8 months , and 19 days on June 19 , the opening round of the 2014 U.S. Women 's Open , held at Course No. 2 of Pinehurst Resort & Country Club . Edel Golf designed custom clubs that Golf Digest described as " blinged @-@ out " for Li to use in the Open . In the first round on Thursday , Li shot a 78 (+ 8) , which had been the highest score that anyone who made the cut in the 2013 Open had tallied . She followed that up with a second 78 on Friday for 156 (+ 16) and missed the cut by seven strokes . She then walked the course as a fan that Sunday . She scheduled an appearance in the July U.S. Women 's Amateur Public Links in DuPont , Washington next . Li shot 74 and 70 to qualify for match play where she lost to Alice Chen in sudden @-@ death of the first round after posting a stroke play equivalent of a 71 . She did not schedule any other USGA events in 2014 , deciding instead to play local events and be an 11 @-@ year @-@ old . In 2015 , she did not qualify for the 2015 U.S. Women 's Open .