

What a year for Hunter Mahan, Candie Kung!

For the 22nd year, the top junior golfers in the nation have been recognized by the American Junior Golf Association. For their remarkable achievements over the past season, the AJGA is proud to honor Hunter Mahan of McKinney, Texas, and Candie Kung of Fountain Valley, Calif., as the 1999 Polo Golf Junior Players of the Year.

Hunter Mahan has just completed the most dominant season by a boy since Tiger Woods in 1992.

It's a strong statement, but Mahan's numbers speak for themselves. The 17-year-old racked up five wins and five runner-up finishes in his 16 national events this season.

From April through July, Mahan ran off an amazing string of 10 consecutive top-three finishes, ending with his romp through the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship.

But Mahan gave an indication of his forthcoming success at the Polo Golf Junior Classic last November, when he threw down the gauntlet at the season-opening event.

Mahan won five straight matches to capture his first AJGA tournament and begin his ascent toward the top of the *Golfweek/Titleist* rankings.

At his next AJGA event, the Scottsdale Junior Classic in April,

Mahan won again and he has not finished out of the top five at a national event since.

The incredible success caught even Mahan a little off guard.

"I had doubts as to how good I was

Hunter Mahan compiled a string of 10 straight top-three finishes over the summer.



It has been only three years since Candie Kung burst onto the junior golf scene. For that matter, it's been only four-and-a-half years since she learned how to play the game.

So, you may be forgiven if you think this 18-year-old is a seasoned veteran who picked up her first club at age two.

Still a relative new-comer in the golf world,

Kung made her first AJGA appearance at the 1996 Rolex Junior Classic (now the Polo Golf Junior Classic), where she turned heads by making the quarterfinals. Her run stopped short when she ran smack into a brick wall by the name of Grace Park. The two-time AJGA Player of the Year defeated Kung 3 and 2, and went on to win the title. It was actually Park's most difficult match of the week.

"I knew who Grace was," Kung recalls. "I was prepared to lose. I expected to lose."

That experience pushed Kung along the path toward greatness, but it wasn't her first step. Kung's story began in April of 1995, when her family moved to California from Taiwan. With months to spare until her first day of high school, her empty days were filled at the golf course.

"I didn't have anything else to do, so I played a lot," Kung says. "I

hit about 500 balls a day for six months. When I started my freshman year, I hit three or four hundred balls a day.

"I don't know how I did that. I can't do it anymore," says Kung, now a college freshman at Southern California.

Her first year playing in the AJGA was an education, and Kung proved to be a quick study. Finishing in the top five at eight of the 11 national tournaments in which she competed in 1997, she earned a spot on the AJGA all-America First Team.

Having come that far in a short amount of time, Kung's next goal was obvious — Polo Golf Player of the Year.

With 10 top-five finishes in 1998, including three victories, Kung put together a nice resume, but it was not enough to overcome Beth Bauer, who earned the honor for the second straight year.

"I tried to win (Player of the Year) last year, but Beth played so well," Kung said. "I just had to forget about it and try again this year."

Determined to come out on top in 1999, Kung sought to play the toughest tournaments, where she was sure to meet the highest level of competition. Her summer schedule

Candie Kung learned to golf in 1995 by hitting 500 balls a day.



➔ see Mahan, page 8

➔ see Kung, page 8

Polo Golf Junior All-America Teams

BOYS DIVISION

FIRST TEAM

Michael Barbosa, St. Petersburg, Fla.
Dustin Bray, Asheboro, N.C.
Christo Greyling, Orlando, Fla.
Jason Hartwick, Sacramento, Calif.
Hunter Mahan, McKinney, Texas
James Oh, Lakewood, Calif.
Matthew Rosenfeld, Plano, Texas
Ty Tryon, Orlando, Fla.
Ron Won, Irvine, Calif.
Chan Song Wongluekiet, Bradenton, Fla.

SECOND TEAM

Brandon Askew, Fargo, N.D.
Ramon Bescansa, Santiago, Spain
Nico Bollini, Yorba Linda, Calif.
Reid Hatley, Spokane, Wash.
Ryan Hybl, Colbert, Ga.
Ken Lewis, South Dennis, Mass.
Kevin Na, Diamond Bar, Calif.
Patrick Norris, Orlando, Fla.
David Oh, Cerritos, Calif.
James Vargas, Miami, Fla.

THIRD TEAM

Ricky Barnes, Stockton, Calif.
Rob Beasley, Greensboro, N.C.
Martin Catalioto, Ramsey, N.J.
Will Claxton, Swainsboro, Ga.
Brent Delahoussaye, Greer, S.C.
Jason Harris, Clemmons, N.C.
Rusty Kennedy, Phoenix, Ariz.
Michael Maness, Galivants Ferry, S.C.
Troy McKinley, Danville, Calif.
Matt McQuillan, Kingston, Ontario

GIRLS DIVISION

FIRST TEAM

Nancy Abiecunas, Ft. Collins, Colo.
Yunny Cho, Diamond Bar, Calif.
Leigh Anne Hardin, Martinsville, Ind.
Candie Kung, Monterey Park, Calif.
Miriam Nagl, Berlin, Germany
Virada Nirapathpongorn, Bangkok, Thailand
Angela Rho, Fullerton, Calif.
Celeste Troche, Asuncion, Paraguay
Aree Song Wongluekiet, Bradenton, Fla.
Naree Song Wongluekiet, Bradenton, Fla.

SECOND TEAM

Erica Blasberg, Corona, Calif.
Christi Cano, San Antonio, Texas
Whitney Code, Tampa, Fla.
Allison Hanna, Portland, Ore.
Malinda Johnson, Eau Claire, Wis.
Hana Kim, Encino, Calif.
Tai Perry, Kennett Square, Pa.
Diana Ramage, Fayetteville, Ga.
Erin Simmons, Houston, Texas
Courtney Wood, Brentwood, Tenn.

Polo Golf Junior All-Americans are part of continuing legacy

Among the thousands of juniors who competed nationally this year, 110 have set themselves apart as Polo Golf Junior All-Americans. Since 1978, the American Junior Golf Association has honored the top junior golfers with the all-America distinction.

The list of former all-Americans reads like a "Who's Who in Pro Golf" with such greats as Tiger Woods, Justin Leonard, David Duval, Jeff Maggert, Mark Calcavecchia, and Phil Mickelson.

The women's side is also impressive with Kelly Robbins, Michelle McGann, Dottie Pepper, Sherri Steinhauer and Danielle Ammaccapane listed among the former AJGA all-Americans.

This year's group of honorees includes young men and women from 27 states and eight foreign countries. Thirty-five of the all-Americans are returning from 1998. Headlining the teams are Polo Golf Players of the Year Hunter Mahan and Candie Kung.

Each player has earned his or her

place on the team by successfully competing at the highest level of junior golf.

"Congratulations to the 1999 Polo Golf Junior All-Americans," AJGA Executive Director Stephen Hamblin said. "We have seen the development of many young golfers that will have success in the golf world for years to come."

Indeed, the golf stars of tomorrow tend to be the junior all-Americans of today. This year's U.S. Ryder Cup team consisted primarily of AJGA alumni. Also, each year, the majority of collegiate all-Americans are former AJGA members.

The AJGA will be fortunate next season, as many of the top players will return to the junior

ranks. Of the 10 first-team boys, only Ron Won has moved on to college. The girls' first team loses only Kung, Miriam Nagl and Celeste Troche.

"With so many talented golfers returning to play, the AJGA is looking forward to a wonderful season in the year 2000," Hamblin said.



First-team member Dustin Bray of Asheboro, N.C., won two national titles this season.

HONORABLE MENTION SELECTIONS

BOYS DIVISION

Jeff Bell, Plano, Texas
Jayme Berkowitz, Weaverville, Calif.
Andrew Buckle, Bracken Ridge, Australia
Brett Callas, Huffman, Texas
John Carter, Thomasville, N.C.
Clint Deibert, Doylestown, Pa.
J.C. DeLeon, Tulsa, Okla.
David Evenson, San Diego, Calif.
Bill Haas, Greer, S.C.
Bryan Holub, Higley, Ariz.
Jason Horrell, Martinsville, Ind.
Peter Karmis, Simonstown, South Africa
Calvin Kupeyan, Tecumseh, Ontario
Michael Lavery, Irvine, Calif.
Will Lloyd, Orlando, Fla.
Ben McCaslin, Dallas, Texas
Yusaku Miyazato, Higashimaka, Japan
Tim Moody, Lindstrom, Minn.
Ryan Moore, Puyallup, Wash.
Ryan Morgan, Lawrence, Kan.
Jesse Mueller, Mesa, Ariz.
Chris Nallen, Hackettstown, N.J.

Andrew Nicholls, Oshawa, Ontario
Brian O'Flaherty, Westlake Village, Calif.
Daniel Ozley, Birmingham, Ala.
Wesley Pate, Pensacola, Fla.
Corey Prugh, Spokane, Wash.
Mike Radek, Chicago, Ill.
Jay Reynolds, Austin, Texas

GIRLS DIVISION

Shannon Barr, China Spring, Texas
Bridget Bieth, Sacramento, Calif.
Jeanne Cho, Bradenton, Fla.
Yvonne Choe, Temple City, Calif.
Kari Damron, Conway, S.C.
Amanda Dick, Clearwater, Fla.
Samantha Fox, Whites Creek, Tenn.
Katie Fletcher, The Woodlands, Texas
Lauren George, Uniontown, Pa.
Mary Ellen Grzebień, Saunderson, R.I.
Beth Hermes, Dixon, Ill.
Sarah Jacobs, Whites Creek, Tenn.
Elizabeth Janangelo, West Hartford, Conn.

Jason Scherr, Lubbock, Texas
Walt Schroeder, Pflugerville, Texas
Adam Shanks, Johnson City, Tenn.
David Spitz, Norwell, Mass.
Travis Whisman, Reno, Nev.
Christine Anast, Littleton, Colo.

Jimin Kang, Edmonds, Wash.
Kim Kouwabunpat, Upland, Calif.
Hwanhee Lee, Cerritos, Calif.
Anne Lee, Northridge, Calif.
Nicole Melton, San Antonio, Texas
Jessica Reese, Santa Rosa, Calif.
Kim Rowton, San Antonio, Texas
Yunuen Sanchez, Puebla, Mexico
Jessica Shepley, Oakville, Ontario
Abby Spector, Waterville, Maine
Brittany Straza, Ft. Myers, Fla.
Whitney Wade, Glasgow, Ky.

Player spotlight

Overcoming critical injuries, golfers are back on course

"Sometimes it takes a tragic accident to help you see a different side of life."

Athletes routinely encounter obstacles. It's part of sports. Obstacles come in various forms, ranging from a 300-pound lineman to a cavernous greenside bunker. Then there are the unexpected obstacles, such as sprained ankles or torn ACLs.

In the last two years, AJGA members David Evenson and Doug McKeever had their golf careers hindered by obstacles of the most severe kind — life-threatening accidents.

Evenson, a 19-year-old San Diego resident, was on his way home from a charity golf tournament on Nov. 10, 1997, when a car swerved into his lane at 55 mph and the two collided head on. Evenson had to be rescued by a helicopter after suffering internal bleeding, severe facial injuries and a broken arm that wasn't discovered for another two weeks after the accident.

The recovery process was long and arduous. It was two months before he could walk and three months before he could start playing golf again.

"The game of golf and the competition pushed me to recover," Evenson said. "I just wanted to get out and be able to compete again at the top level."

Upon his recovery, Evenson did more than just compete. He went on to capture the 1999 AJGA Las Vegas Founders' Legacy Junior title, then followed that up with a second-place showing at the IZZO/Compaq Junior at Rush Creek, earning all-America honors in the process.

"The win at Vegas did wonders for me," Evenson said. "It made me mentally stronger and proved that I could come back from anything."

Evenson's dedication, along with a successful summer, payed off, as the freshman earned a scholarship to the University of Minnesota.

In 1997, McKeever etched his name in AJGA history with a Boys Division single-round record of 63 at

the AJGA West Texas Junior, a tournament in which the Plano, Texas, native claimed his first AJGA victory.

On June 25, 1998, McKeever's career suffered a tragic setback when a horrific accident sent him into a coma for 10 days.

As he and a couple of friends were riding four wheelers that summer evening, his vision became impaired by the dust of the trail. McKeever didn't see his friends wind to the left as they approached a fork in the road.

He continued forward, driving directly into a ditch where he flipped over the handlebars, went through a barbed wire fence and lay unconscious.

The accident left McKeever in a coma with three broken ribs, a broken pelvis, broken wrist, a fractured cheek bone and lacerations to the face.

"I was in the hospital for six weeks and I had not even realized I had the accident," said McKeever, who suffered from Post Traumatic Amnesia. "I didn't know

what was going on. All I wanted to do was go to sleep so I didn't have to deal with it."

It was two months after the accident when McKeever woke up one morning, approached his parents and began crying as he had finally realized the accident

was not a dream.

"I knew it wasn't going to be an easy recovery," he said. "I remember the first time I went out to hit balls after the accident and I whiffed three times. I wanted to give up."

McKeever credited his recovery to the support of his parents and his faith.

"I remind myself everyday to thank my parents for what they have done for me and to thank God that I'm still alive and still able to play the game I love," McKeever said.

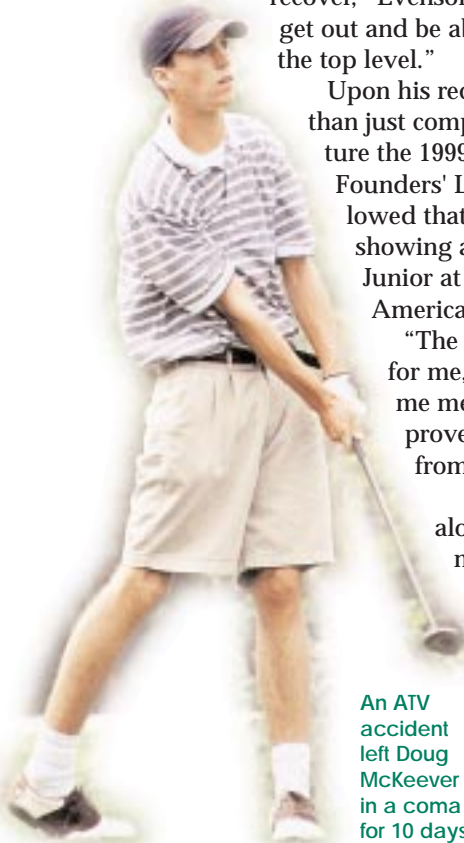
The 19-year-old still has a few scars from the accident, but he has overcome adversity to earn a golf scholarship to Southern Methodist University.

As McKeever and Evenson enter college, they try to keep their life-threatening accidents in perspective.

"It's sad to say, but sometimes it takes a tragic accident to help you see a different side of life," Evenson said. "When I'm out on the golf course and I hit a bad shot, I try not to get frustrated and just be thankful that I'm still alive."



David Evenson was unable to walk for two months after a high-speed head-on collision.



An ATV accident left Doug McKeever in a coma for 10 days.

Taking a look back at the major events of 1999

With 55 tournaments and 33 qualifiers this year, more AJGA members than ever were able to participate in AJGA tournaments. And with so many opportunities, a large number of players were able to take advantage and make names for themselves on the national level.

SIBLING SUCCESS

One word that became a household name in 1999 is Wongluekiet. The AJGA had no idea what was coming when the twins Aree and Naree turned 13 on May 1. By the end of the month, however, that changed, as Aree won the Lucent Technologies Girls Junior Championship, while Naree placed fourth.

One month later, it was Naree coming up big at the Rolex Tournament of Champions for her first AJGA victory.

Not to be forgotten, big brother Chan was steadily putting together an outstanding season. Between Chan, Aree and Naree, the Wongluekiet family claimed six AJGA tournament titles in 1999. Now they have become the first sibling trio to be named all-American in the same year.

PRE-SUMMER TOURNAMENTS

Before the summer even began, some players had begun to put together stellar seasons. Hunter Mahan's trek toward Polo Golf Player of the Year was spurred by his victories at the Polo Golf Junior Classic and Scottsdale Junior Classic. Candie Kung's win at the Taylor Made Woodlands Junior Classic gave her a push toward Player of the Year honors, as well. Then there were Celeste Troche, Yunny Cho, Virada Nirapathpongporn and Christo Greyling, all of whom made the Polo Golf Junior All-America First Team after picking up early season wins.

Rob Beasley wowed the crowd with his 9-under 63 in the second round of the Ashworth Carolina Junior Classic.

TAKING IT DEEP!

This season's lowest rounds

BOYS DIVISION

- * 63 **Rob Beasley**
Ashworth Carolina Junior Classic
- 64 **Matt McQuillan**
AJGA Tucker Anthony Junior
- 64 **Hunter Mahan**
Rolex Tournament of Champions

GIRLS DIVISION

- 66 **Leigh Anne Hardin**
Ashworth Bluegrass Junior Invitational
- 66 **Allison Hanna**
PING Langdon Farms Junior Classic
- 66 **Ina Kim**
Rolex Tournament of Champions
- 66 **Naree Song Wongluekiet**
Rolex Tournament of Champions
- 66 **Naree Song Wongluekiet**
Ashworth Junior Classic at Windsor Parke
- 66 **Virada Nirapathpongporn**
Rolex Tournament of Champions
- 66 **Virada Nirapathpongporn**
PING Myrtle Beach Junior Classic (twice)

* AJGA Boys Division Record



NEW PLACES

The AJGA expanded into many new areas in 1999. The IZZO Junior Championship at Sand Barrens brought the AJGA to Atlantic City, N.J., where Chris Nallen and Lauren George rang up a pair of big wins. Nallen had previously been known as the guy who took second to Sergio Garcia at the 1998 Marsh & McLennan Apawamis Junior. George, playing in her first AJGA tournament, was previously unknown. Things have now changed for both players.

The Pacific Northwest gained a new event with the addition of the Compaq Junior Championship at Trophy Lake. Washington native Reid Hatley picked up the boys' win in his homestate, while the Girls Division witnessed the emergence of a new star. Fourteen-year-old Erica Blasberg picked up her first of two AJGA wins at the event.

The JCPenney Junior Classic brought another AJGA event to the golfing-rich state of Florida. In fitting fashion, two of Florida's most prominent golfers, Mike Barbosa and Whitney Code, claimed the trophies.

The Marsh Kansas City Junior enhanced the AJGA's presence in the Midwest and, once again, the prize went to a nearby resident. Ryan Morgan of Lawrence, Kan., won the Boys Division and Beth Hermes topped the Girls Division. It was the first AJGA win for both players.

The AJGA brought a second event to its northern neighbors with the Lucent Western Canadian Junior. That's where Allison Hanna earned her third AJGA title of the summer in dominant fashion, winning by 12 strokes. Brian O'Flaherty completed the winners' circle by claiming the boys' title.

A FAST START

At summer's start, Christo Greyling was nearly unbeatable. After winning the Classic Foundation Junior at English Turn, he teamed with Ty Tryon to earn victory at the Justin

Virada "Oui" Nirapathpongporn fired three rounds of 66 and carded the low 36-hole and 54-hole scores of the summer.



KEEPING THE PACE

Season-low tournament totals

BOYS DIVISION — 36 holes

- 135 **Christo Greyling**
Taylor Made Pinelsle Junior Classic

GIRLS DIVISION — 36 holes

- 140 **Virada Nirapathpongporn**
Taylor Made Pinelsle Junior Classic
- 140 **Courtney Wood**
Rome Junior Classic at Stonebridge

BOYS DIVISION — 54 holes

- 202 **Matt McQuillan**
AJGA Tucker Anthony Junior

GIRLS DIVISION — 54 holes

- * 200 **Virada Nirapathpongporn**
PING Myrtle Beach Junior Classic

* AJGA Girls Division Record



The state of Maine may have only eight AJGA members, but it still picked up a victory, thanks to Abby Spector.

Hotbeds of Golf

Locations with the most AJGA wins by its residents in 1999

24	California
19	Florida
12	Texas
4	Canada
4	Colorado
4	Indiana
4	North Carolina
4	Tennessee
3	Oregon
3	Washington



California totalled the most wins of any state — Jayme Berkowitz contributed one at IZZO Colorado.

Where the juniors are

States with highest AJGA membership in 1999

681	Texas
490	California
317	Florida
213	Ohio
207	Illinois
178	New York
159	Georgia
158	North Carolina
139	Pennsylvania
126	Arizona
125	Colorado
124	Massachusetts

Leonard/Deloitte & Touche Junior Team Championship. It was his third AJGA title of the season.

Angela Rho was also quick out of the gate, beginning with her win at the Justin Leonard event with teammate Kim Rowton. She quickly followed that up by defending her title at the Nabisco Mission Hills Desert Junior.

Then there is Leigh Anne Hardin, who played three AJGA tournaments in the month of June and won them all. In the process, she tied an AJGA record with wins in three consecutive weeks.

Nancy Abiecunas nearly matched Hardin's feat during the same time frame, sandwiching two victories around her second-place finish at Mission Hills.

MID-SUMMER HEAT

The mid-summer classic, Rolex Tournament of Champions, brought out the very best in junior golf. Coming away with victory were James Oh and Naree Song Wongluekiet in two hard-fought battles at Ohio State University.

The following week, history was made when Naree won again, along with brother Chan at the Ashworth Junior Classic at Windsor Parke. It was the first time that siblings swept the top spots at an AJGA tournament.

COMING DOWN THE 18TH FAIRWAY

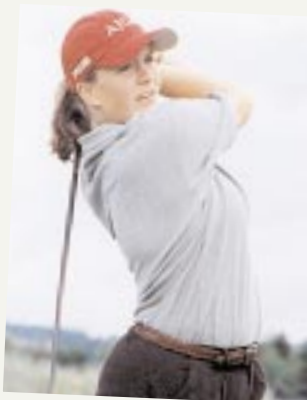
For the second straight year, the Canon Cup was decided on the last putt and the West came out victorious for the first time since 1992.

Rob Beasley tied the AJGA boys' scoring record with a 9-under 63 at the Ashworth Carolina Junior Classic. It was his second AJGA title of the summer, as he finished on a roll.

Also finishing with a flurry were Mike Barbosa, Courtney Wood, Mary Ellen Grzebien and Allison Hanna — each of whom won two tournaments in the final month of summer.

Once again, the AJGA is proud to have brought quality national events to thousands of juniors across the United States and Canada. Also, the AJGA is proud of each of its members who are diligently working to succeed in this sport. Congratulations to all junior golfers who participated, gave their best, and conducted themselves with integrity on the golf course.

Allison Hanna was one of four players to win three tournaments this season.



WINNING OFTEN!

Multiple victories this season

GIRLS DIVISION

3	Allison Hanna
3	Leigh Anne Hardin
3	Aree Song Wongluekiet
2	Nancy Abiecunas
2	Christine Anast
2	Erica Blasberg
2	Yunny Cho
2	Mary Ellen Grzebien
2	Candie Kung
2	Virada Nirapathpongorn
2	Angela Rho
2	Naree Song Wongluekiet
2	Courtney Wood

BOYS DIVISION

3	Christo Greyling
2	Brandon Askew
2	Mike Barbosa
2	Rob Beasley
2	Hunter Mahan
2	Ty Tryon

Chan Song Wongluekiet had the biggest runaway victory of the season at Windsor Parke.



WINNING BIG!

This season's largest margins of victory

BOYS DIVISION

Chan Song Wongluekiet, 6 strokes
Ashworth Junior Classic at Windsor Parke
Chris Nallen, 5 strokes
IZZO Junior Championship at Sand Barrens
Brent Delahoussaye, 5 strokes
Hargray Junior Classic at Indigo Run
Mike Barbosa, 5 strokes
JCPenney Junior Classic

GIRLS DIVISION

Allison Hanna, 12 strokes
Lucent Western Canadian Junior
Aree Song Wongluekiet, 12 strokes
Lucent Eastern Canadian Junior



Compaq Scholastic Junior All-America Team

BOYS TEAM

Rob Beasley, Greensboro, N.C.
Northwest Guilford High School
GPA 4.78/5.00 Rank in Class: 6/392

Matthew Brooks, Mesa, Ariz.
Red Mountain High School
GPA 4.27/4.00 Rank in Class: 10/790

Martin Catalioto, Ramsey, N.J.
Bergen Catholic High School
GPA 91.10/100 Rank in Class: n/a

Alex Fulton, Kingwood, Texas
Kingwood High School
GPA 5.17/5.00 Rank in Class: 12/878

Cameron Heathcott, Conroe, Texas
Conroe High School
GPA 4.00/4.00 Rank in Class: 1/486

Benjamin Hodge, Des Moines, Iowa
Theodore Roosevelt High School
GPA 4.10/4.00 Rank in Class: 1/353

Blake Mastalir, Englewood, Colo.
Cherry Creek High School
GPA 4.41/5.00 Rank in Class: 28/788

Ryan Morgan, Lawrence, Kan.
Lawrence High School
GPA 4.00/4.00 Rank in Class: 1/390

Peter Rivas, New Orleans, La.
Jesuit High School
GPA 4.48/4.00 Rank in Class: n/a

Zack Robinson, Fort Worth, Texas
Southwest High School
GPA 4.42/4.00 Rank in Class: 8/463

GIRLS TEAM

Erin Borowiec, Farmington Hills, Mich.
Mercy High School
GPA 3.96/4.00 Rank in Class: 2/231

Tiffany Catafygiotu, Greer, S.C.
Greer High School
GPA 4.33/4.00 Rank in Class: 5/228

Lauren Grzebien, Saundertown, R.I.
Narragansett High School
GPA 4.99/5.65 Rank in Class: 5/130

Mary Ellen Grzebien, Saundertown, R.I.
Narragansett High School
GPA 5.33/5.65 Rank in Class: 1/135

Leigh Anne Hardin, Martinsville, Ind.
Martinsville High School
GPA 4.49/4.00 Rank in Class: 4/440

Sarah Heffel, Mesa, Ariz.
Mountain View High School
GPA 4.25/4.00 Rank in Class: 20/866

Katy Joslin, Waterford, Calif.
Hughson High School
GPA 4.08/4.00 Rank in Class: 3/163

Katie Redeker, Pepper Pike, Ohio
Hathaway Brown School
GPA 3.80/4.00 Rank in Class: n/a

Ingrid Rickers, Worthington, Minn.
Worthington High School
GPA 4.00/4.00 Rank in Class: 1/185

Kristin Thompson, Napa, Calif.
Napa High School
GPA 4.32/4.00 Rank in Class: 17/471

Compaq scholars honored for classwork

Compaq and the AJGA annually recognize junior golfers who excel both in the classroom and on the course.

The 1999 Compaq Scholastic Junior All-America Team consists of 10 young men and 10 young women who have been selected based on the following criteria: grade-point average; class rank; SAT/ACT

scores (if available); writing skills; and golfing ability

As part of the criteria, all entrants were required to submit an essay on the subject, "What's the most important lesson golf has taught you?" This year's winning essay was submitted by Martin Catalioto of Ramsey, N.J.

Winning Essay

by Martin Catalioto

September 10, 1999

Dear Dad,

It has been almost five months since God brought you from our home to his mansion in the sky. I know you are now at peace where pain and suffering no longer exist. I thought I would write you a letter, to tell you how proud you would be, knowing I was selected as a candidate for the Compaq Scholastic All-American Award.

Since your passing on May 22, 1999, I tried to be the son you taught me to be. At that very moment, I made a promise to myself ... to play the game ... the game of life ... from tee to green ... with the dedication you instilled in me ... to NEVER GIVE UP.

Within hours of the worst day of my life, I packed my suitcase, golf bag in hand and set out with commitment for my first American Junior Golf Association tournament. Without you an arm's distance away, how would I ever survive?

Many thoughts raced through my confused and clouded mind. How could I ever tee it up again? With the competition being so tough, would I have the courage to continue facing adversity and tenuous situations? Would my nerves be calm enough to putt with accuracy on the many long and undulated greens? Dad, I was so scared! I knew I had to stay focused on my game and play with confidence. I will always remember you saying: "Once I commit to something, never quit, until it is over." I knew I needed to have the confidence, coupled with a positive attitude, to overcome any feelings of apprehension. I can still remember your strong voice, now whispering, "Martin, play one shot at a time. Make your par and go home." It was not all that easy, Dad!

Throughout the summer, many opportunities of challenge and growth came to the forefront. Traveling, for the love of the game, throughout the country as well as England, I found myself playing at some of the finest courses, with the pressure of the highest junior competition. I always looked up to you, for the emotional strength you endlessly gave me. Your continual encouragement will have a lasting value on my life. You continually preached, "Practice the way you play. Be prepared. Play to win."

All these lessons you taught me are truly the lessons of life. I often compare my game of golf to daily living. Every shot has a true meaning, capturing every action of every day.

Once shot at a time ... One day at a time.

What club to hit off the tee? ... How should I plan my day?

Will my drive stay in the fairway? ... Am I mentally ready for challenges?

Will I get up and down from the trap? ... Do I have confidence to succeed?

Will the putt drop for the win? ... Do I have the mental focus to conquer?

Will I be a true champion? ... Can I follow in your footsteps?

Oh, how the game of golf is with me every day!

Thank you, Dad, for walking with me, encouraging me when I feel all alone, and most of all, for your never ending love. May I always walk in your footsteps, never to give up, no matter how difficult the course; the course of life. You taught me to fight to the end, as you are my role model. You gave me the foundation of strength, the perseverance to be a champion and the know how to accept the agony of defeat with humility and grace.

Everyday I hear your voice, louder and louder ... "Martin, play to win ... never forget to have fun ... and above all ... don't forget to stop and smell the roses."

Thank you Dad, for preparing me for the greatest game of all ... the game of life.

I Love You,
Your #1 Son

Volunteer spotlight

AJGA's 1999 success came at hands of "Superstars"



Golf is a game that has the ability to teach us lessons that we carry with us the rest of our lives. Honesty, integrity, self-discipline and character are all traits that can be acquired through playing golf. Golf also promotes friendships that will last a lifetime.

It is for these reasons that the AJGA provides the highest quality junior golf tournaments in the world. It is through AJGA tournaments that these life values may be learned, so it is important to have positive role models at each event and people who can have a positive impact on others.

This year, the AJGA began honoring Tournament Chairman, Sponsors and Volunteers in the communities, in which AJGA tournaments are held, with Superstar Awards for their dedication to junior golf.

"The Superstar Award is a way for the AJGA to express its gratitude to those that have given so much of their time and have dedicated themselves to helping junior golf grow," said AJGA Assistant Executive Director Peter Ripa. "I look at our schedule and the names of so many great supporters come to mind. It is these people that make life at the AJGA so much easier."

The AJGA honored 56 supporters with the Superstar Award during the 1999 season. On behalf of all its members, the AJGA would like to thank the Superstar recipients for their leadership and support throughout the year.



For the last two years, Jon Schultz (right) has worked closely with the AJGA as the local tournament chairman of the Lucent Technologies Boys Junior Championship. AJGA Tournament Director Gus Montano presented Schultz with a "Superstar Award" this year.



Participants at the Lucent Technologies Girls Junior Championship are very familiar with Doreen Fulcher, Joan Booth and Rose Nehring (left to right), who have spearheaded the volunteer efforts for many years.

1999 Superstar Award Recipients

Scottsdale Junior Classic	..... Dave Derminio, Michael Kennedy
Taylor Made Woodlands Junior Classic	..... Don Snortland
Lucent Technologies Girls Junior Championship	..... Joan Booth
Classic Foundation Junior at English Turn	..... Bill Haws
Aspen Junior Classic	..... Doug Rohrbaugh
Justin Leonard/Deloitte & Touche Team Champ.	..... Jim and Nancy Barragan, and Justin Leonard
Greater Greensboro Chrysler Junior	..... Jerry Clapp, Gary Baldwin
Las Vegas Founders' Legacy Junior	..... Bob Cole
Texaco San Antonio Shootout	..... Roger Lunke, Mary Carriker
Golfweek Windy City Junior	..... Jim Nugent
Compaq Junior Championship at Trophy Lake	..... Orrin Vincent
Nabisco Mission Hills Junior Classic	..... Don and Fidge Brown
Lessing's Inc. AJGA Classic	..... Mike Giaquinto
Ashworth Bluegrass Junior Invitational	..... Tom Cooksey
Buick Junior Open	..... Bob Bernstein
PING Langdon Farms Junior Classic	..... Jeff Fought
Hargray Junior Classic at Indigo Run	..... Donna Martin, Margaret Carter
Joseph A. Bank Junior All-Star Classic	..... Tom Stine
IZZO/Compaq Junior at Rush Creek	..... Ed and Lori Money
Rolex Tournament of Champions	..... Jim Brown
Ashworth Junior Classic at Windsor Parke	..... Bruce Taylor
PING Myrtle Beach Junior Classic	..... George Hilliard
Abilene Reporter-News Junior	..... Phillip Day, Robert Briley
Ashworth/Golf Design Junior Championship	..... Vince Nicholson, Chris Demirjian
Lucent Eastern Canadian Junior	..... Ken Barr
ClubCorp Junior Players Championship	..... Wayne Nooe
McDonald's Betsy Rawls Girls Nat'l Championship	..... Betsy Rawls
DIRECTV Turnberry Isle Junior Classic	..... Dave Podolan
Southwestern Junior Classic	..... Phil Vitale
Lucent Technologies Boys Junior Championship	..... Jon Schultz
Ashworth Carolina Junior Classic	..... Tim Mervosh
Canon Cup	..... Bob Patton
IZZO Colorado Junior Roundup	..... T.J. Izzo
JCPenney Junior Classic	..... Jay Overton
Boise Junior Classic at Warm Springs	..... Blake Mason, T.J. Gomez
Marsh Junior at Ardsley	..... Pat Saunders, Walter Tomenson
Marsh Kansas City Junior	..... Len Kline
Rome Junior Classic at Stonebridge	..... Frank Brown, Jo Stegall
Greater Hartford Jaycees Junior Classic	..... Ted May
PING Phoenix Junior Championship	..... John Solheim
AJGA Tucker Anthony Junior	..... Barbara Lander
Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Junior Classic	..... Reggie Copeland

➡ Mahan, continued from page 1

compared to all the great players out there,” Mahan says. “Winning Polo really helped my confidence. Then winning Grayhawk (Scottsdale) gave me loads of confidence entering the summer.”

Mahan’s confidence led him to play one of the most grueling summer schedules possible. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, there was little chance to rest.

“Everything was going so well for me that I kept going and going,” he says. “I was riding the wave.”

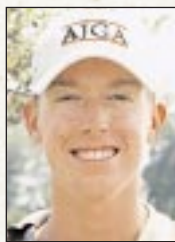
As arduous as the summer may have been, Mahan says, “I would do it all over again. It was a great experience, even outside of golf.”

Now, Mahan is reaping the fruits of his labor.

“(Polo Golf Player of the Year) is the biggest thing in junior golf,” he says. “It’s unbelievable to look at the names who have won this award and where they are now.”

No doubt, Mahan is speaking of past AJGA Players of the Year such as Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and David Duval. Not bad company.

“This award means the world to me,” Mahan says. “It shows what you can do if you put your mind toward achieving your goals.”



Hunter Mahan —
His credentials:

71.04 stroke average
16 tournaments
5 national wins
12 top-fives

➡ Kung, continued from page 1

took her from Arizona to Ohio to Texas to South Carolina, to name just a few.

“I had a lot of confidence going into the summer,” Kung says. “I was hitting the ball well and playing well.”

It’s easy to see why Kung was so confident. She had won three of her five pre-summer tournaments and was comfortably atop the *Golfweek*/Titleist rankings. With three more victories during the summer, she solidified her hold on the No. 1 ranking and secured her goal of winning Polo Golf Player of the Year.

“It’s a great way to finish my junior career,” Kung says. “It’ll be something to tell my kids about.”



Candie Kung —
Her credentials:

71.95 stroke average
16 tournaments
6 national wins
13 top-fives

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