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Record run!

Leigh Anne Hardin matched an AJGA record by winning three tournaments in three consecutive weeks in June. The feat was accomplished last year by Kim Rowton and prior to that, by Michael Henderson in 1993.

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Victory is sweet!



Oh, Wongluekiet crowned champions at Rolex T of C

Two players. Coming from two vastly different realms of experience. Yet their results at this year's Rolex Tournament of Champions were the same.

For 17-year-old James Oh, it's not the first time he has reached the pinnacle of success in his veteran junior career.

Oh was the hero of the 1997 Junior Match, where he sparked the United States to victory with a dramatic birdie on the 18th hole of his final match. Oh's win in that match put the U.S. on top of Europe for good as the Americans won the inaugural event.

Last year, Oh shined at the U.S. Junior Amateur, claiming one of junior golf's biggest prizes as he battled through match play until the trophy was firmly in hand.

In stark contrast to Oh is fellow Rolex champion Naree Wongluekiet. She is barely 13 years old and her

junior career has just begun, although one would never suspect it by the way she has handled herself during her first month-and-a-half of AJGA competition.

After placing fourth, second and sixth in her first three AJGA tournaments, Wongluekiet achieved her breakthrough by winning the Rolex Tournament of Champions.

Like her twin sister Aree, who won the Lucent Technologies Girls Junior Championship in May, Naree's first AJGA victory came at the expense of the top-ranked junior golfers at one of the most prominent events in the world of junior golf.

"It feels good to get a win since my sister already has two," Naree said. "I played consistent all week and really didn't get into too much trouble."

See page 4 for tournament coverage and results.

At the Top of the News

Tournament selection criteria updated for 2000

The following selection criteria will be used to determine tournament fields next year.

BOYS 13-18 DIVISION

1. If a player properly applies to a tournament in which he finished in the top 15 the previous year (1999), he will automatically be accepted into the 2000 tournament.
2. If a player finishes in the top 1/4 of an AJGA tournament field, he will be accepted into the next AJGA tournament for which he properly applies.
3. If a player finishes in the top 10 of an AJGA tournament, he will be accepted into the next two AJGA tournaments for which he properly applies.
4. If a player finishes in the top 5 of an AJGA tournament, he will become an exempt player for the remainder of the 2000 season. The player will be accepted to any AJGA tournament (maximum 5 non-invitationals) for which he properly applies.
5. If a player is a medalist at an AJGA qualifier and finishes in the top 1/2 of the tournament field, he will be accepted into the same tournament in 2001 if he properly applies and is age eligible.
6. If a player is the champion at a David Leadbetter Junior All-Star Series event, he will be accepted into the next regular AJGA tournament for which he properly applies.

GIRLS 13-18 DIVISION

1. If a player properly applies to a tournament in which she finished in the top 5 the previous year (1999), she will automatically be accepted into the 2000 tournament.
2. If a player finishes in the top 1/4 of an AJGA tournament field, she will be accepted into the next AJGA tournament for which she properly applies.
3. If a player finishes in the top 5 of an AJGA tournament, she will be accepted into the next two AJGA tournaments for which she properly applies.
4. If a player finishes in the top 3 of an AJGA tournament, she will become an exempt player for the remainder of the 2000 season. The player will be accepted to any AJGA tournament (maximum 5 non-invitationals) for which she properly applies.
5. If a player is a medalist at an AJGA qualifier and finishes in the top 1/2 of the tournament field, she will be accepted into the same tournament in 2001 if she properly applies and is age eligible.
6. If a player is the champion at a David Leadbetter Junior All-Star Series event, she will be accepted into the next regular AJGA tournament for which she properly applies.

10th annual Canon Cup teams selected

The teams have been set as the American Junior Golf Association looks forward to the 10th annual Canon Cup, which is set to take place at Long Cove Club on Hilton Head Island, S.C., Aug. 9-12.

Using the *Golfweek*/Titleist Junior Amateur Rankings as the selection criteria, 40 of the top juniors in the nation have been selected to compete in the three-day event, molded after the Ryder Cup.

Among the selectees are 26 Polo Golf Junior All-Americans.

The East squad is highlighted by the reigning Polo Golf Junior Player of the Year Ryan Hybl of who is making his third Canon Cup appearance. Leading the East girls contingent is second-ranked Virada Nirapathpongporn.

The West is led by No. 1-ranked Hunter Mahan, the 1998 Polo Golf Junior Classic champion, as well as fourth-ranked James Oh, the victor at both the 1999 Rolex Tournament of Champions and 1998 U.S. Junior Amateur.

As a tribute to the strength of the Canon Cup participants, 18 of the top 20 boys in the *Golfweek*/Titleist Amateur Rankings will compete. On the girls' side, 16 of the top 24 players are on the teams.

Absent from the event are Candie Kung, Leigh Anne Hardin and Celeste Troche, three of the top four girls in the nation, each of whom has qualified for the U.S. Women's Amateur scheduled for the same week.

For the first time ever, three siblings will play together in the event. Chan, Aree and Naree Wongluekiet all bring top-10 rankings to the East Team as they make their first Canon Cup appearance.

The Canon Cup juniors are fortunate to be able to play Long Cove Club, site of the 1997 AJGA Rolex Tournament of Champions. Long Cove has been ranked No. 56 on *Golf Digest's* top 100 greatest U.S. golf courses, and it is ranked No. 1 in South Carolina.



The East

Derek Nelson, Team Captain

THE BOYS

Mike BarbosaSt. Petersburg, Fla.
Ramon BescansaBradenton, Fla.
Christo GreylingOrlando, Fla.
Bill HaasGreer, S.C.
Ryan HyblColbert, Ga.
Ken LewisSouth Dennis, Mass.
Patrick NorrisOrlando, Fla.
Ty TryonOrlando, Fla.
James VargasMiami, Fla.
Chan WongluekietBradenton, Fla.

THE GIRLS

Jeanne ChoBradenton, Fla.
Whitney CodeTampa, Fla.
Kari DamronConway, S.C.
Samantha FoxWhites Creek, Tenn.
Miriam NaglSarasota, Fla.
Virada NirapathpongpornBradenton, Fla.
Tai PerryKennett Square, Pa.
Brittany StrazaFort Myers, Fla.
Aree WongluekietBradenton, Fla.
Naree WongluekietBradenton, Fla.

The West

Mark Brazil, Team Captain

Nico BolliniYorba Linda, Calif.
J.C. DeLeonTulsa, Okla.
Jason HartwickSacramento, Calif.
Rusty KennedyPhoenix, Ariz.
Hunter MahanMcKinney, Texas
James OhLakewood, Calif.
David OhCerritos, Calif.
Matthew RosenfeldPlano, Texas
Travis WhismanReno, Nev.
Ron WonIrvine, Calif.

Nancy AbiecunasFt. Collins, Colo.
Christi CanoSan Antonio, Texas
Katie FletcherThe Woodlands, Texas
Hana KimEncino, Calif.
Kim KouwabunpatUpland, Calif.
Anne LeeNorthridge, Calif.
Jessica ReeseSanta Rosa, Calif.
Angela RhoFullerton, Calif.
Kim RowtonSan Antonio, Texas
Erin SimmonsHouston, Texas

Qualifier success stories: Making the journey to All-American

What do Polo Golf Junior All-Americans Bill Haas, Adam Gary, Matt Lindholm, Angela Rho and Matthew Rosenfeld have in common? They are among the thousands who received their first shot in the AJGA through the Ashworth Qualifier Series.

Many of the top juniors in the American Junior Golf Association first had to prove themselves in the Series.

Matt Lindholm of Georgetown, Texas, went from qualifier to tournament champion within a year's time.

"The qualifier at Texace San Antonio in '97 was my breakthrough," Lindholm said. "After four or five rejections, all of a sudden I ended up playing in eight tournaments in one year."

Lindholm, who signed with Texas A&M, said the qualifier was his launch pad.

"I finished well in the tournament and then got a win the next season," Lindholm said. "Before I knew it, I was getting letters from college coaches. The qualifier really made the difference."

Adam Gary and Bill Haas accomplished noteworthy feats in 1998 by winning the same tournament in which they qualified.

Haas, of Greer, S.C., reached his first AJGA tournament after medaling at the 1998 Greater Greensboro Chrysler Junior Qualifier. It would be the last qualifier he would need to play in, as he proceeded to win the tournament title.

Gary found similar success at the 1998 Ashworth Bluegrass Junior Invitational.

"Making it through the qualifier and then winning the tournament was huge for me," the Bowling Green, Ky., native said. "It got me into the top tournaments so I could play against the best competition and improve my game. I would say it got me the scholarship to ETSU (East Tennessee State)."



Bill Haas was both the qualifier medalist and tournament champion at the 1998 Greater Greensboro Chrysler Junior.

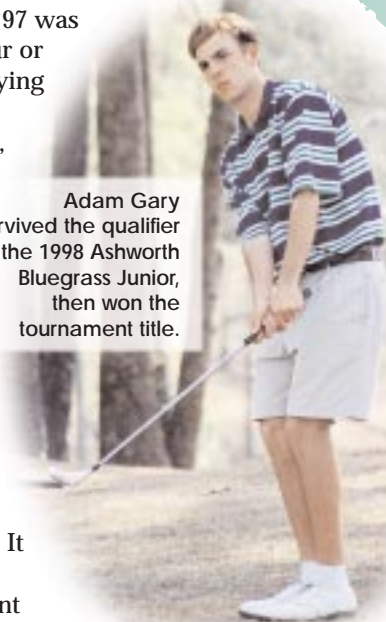
Angela Rho qualified for her first tournament at the Nabisco Mission Hills Desert Junior in 1997, then placed seventh in her maiden event. Mission Hills Country Club has continued to be kind to the Fullerton, Calif., native, who has won the event the following two years.

Matthew Rosenfeld made his debut in what is traditionally one of the tougher tournaments on the AJGA schedule, the Taylor Made Woodlands Junior Classic. The product of Plano, Texas, followed his third-place qualifier finish with a tie for sixth in the tournament. Later in the year, he grabbed his first tournament trophy at the DIRECTV Junior Classic.

The Ashworth Qualifiers produces success stories such as these each year. Some players just need one chance to make it; others may need a half-dozen or more.

"For those that haven't gotten in, they should have some patience," advises Lindholm. "Keep playing and it will eventually pay off."

Adam Gary survived the qualifier at the 1998 Ashworth Bluegrass Junior, then won the tournament title.



Ashworth Series provides many benefits to members

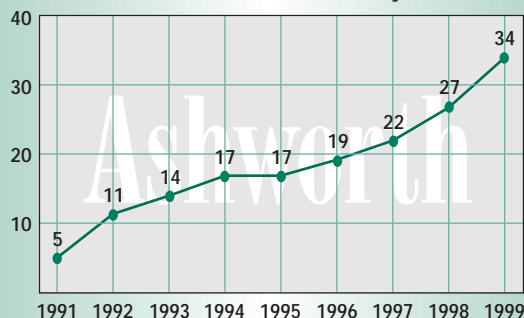
The Ashworth Qualifier Series was created in 1991 to provide additional opportunities for AJGA members to play at the highest level of junior golf. Despite a continuing increase in AJGA tournaments, the demand among juniors is greater than the tournament supply. It was for this reason that the Series was born.

"Every day we get resumès from outstanding young golfers," AJGA Director of Tournament Administration Derek Nelson said. "However, with so many players applying each week, we can't possibly accept everyone. That's what makes the Ashworth Qualifier Series necessary; more players have a shot to earn their way into a tournament."

An AJGA qualifier typically contains a field of 100 players. With 34 qualifiers on this year's schedule, the AJGA has created more than 3,000 opportunities in addition to the regular tournament fields.

"There is a side benefit to playing in qualifiers," explains Nelson. "They are considered national tournaments and a good score that doesn't qualify will look good on a member's resumè. The AJGA also looks favorably on players that make the effort to play in qualifiers. Even if they don't qualify, it indicates a great desire to play."

The Ashworth Qualifier Series was begun in 1991, offering five qualifying events. The Series has since flourished, offering 34 qualifiers among the AJGA's 55 tournaments this year.



AJGA Scoreboard

Greater Greensboro Chrysler Junior The Cardinal Golf Club — Par 70 June 15-17, 1999

Boys Division

- 1 John Carter III, Thomasville, N.C. 72-71-71—214
T2 Bill Haas, Greer, S.C. 75-72-69—216
Dustin Bray, Asheboro, N.C. 71-73-72—216

Girls Division

- 1 Aree Wongluekiet, Bradenton, Fla. 70-71-68—209
2 Virada Nirapathpongorn, Bangkok, Thailand . 71-69-71—211

Texace San Antonio Shootout San Antonio Country Club — Par 72 June 15-17, 1999

Boys Division

- 1 Wesley Pate, Pensacola, Fla. 68-72-70—210
2 Hunter Mahan, McKinney, Texas 71-70-70—211
3 James Vargas, Miami, Fla. 69-72-72—213

Girls Division

- 1 Leigh Anne Hardin, Martinsville, Ind. 72-73-71—216
2 Candie Kung, Fountain Valley, Calif. 73-71-74—218

Las Vegas Founders' Legacy Junior The Legacy Golf Club — Par 71 June 15-17, 1999

Boys Division

- 1 David Evenson, San Diego, Calif. 70-71-68—209
2 Travis Whisman, Reno, Nev. 72-69-70—211

Girls Division

- 1 # Nancy Abiecunas, Fort Collins, Colo. 73-71-71—215
2 Anne Lee, Northridge, Calif. 70-73-72—215
won on first hole of sudden-death playoff

Golfweek Windy City Junior Winnetka Golf Club — Par 71 June 15-18, 1999

Boys Division

- 1 Brandon Askew, Fargo, N.D. 74-71-69—214
2 Chris Yoder, Ashland, Ohio 69-74-73—216

Girls Division

- 1 Malinda Johnson, Eau Claire, Wis. 77-79-73—229
2 Jenny Norlien, Willmar, Minn. 78-77-75—230

Lessing's Inc. AJGA Classic The Patterson Club — Par 71 June 21-24, 1999

Boys Division

- 1 Clint Delbert, Doylestown, Pa. 70-73-73—216
T2 Jason Lockwood, Windsor, Conn. 76-68-74—218
Zack Amole, Denver, Pa. 72-72-74—218

Girls Division

- 1 Abby Spector, Waterville, Maine 71-78-76—225

Nabisco Mission Hills Desert Junior Mission Hills CC, Dinah Shore Course — Par 72 June 21-23, 1999

Boys Division

- 1 David Oh, Cerritos, Calif. 74-69-68—211
T2 Troy McKinley, Danville, Calif. 69-74-72—215
Travis Johnson, Bellflower, Calif. 71-71-73—215

Girls Division

- 1 Angela Rho, Fullerton, Calif. 70-71-72—213

Junior All-Star Classic at Mission Hills Mission Hills CC, Palmer Course — Par 72 June 21-23, 1999

Boys Division

- 1 Henry Liaw, Rowland Heights, Calif. 69-69—138
2 Chad Wilcox, Peoria, Ariz. 73-67—140

Girls Division

- 1 Laura Manuel, Lakewood, Calif. 76-74—150

Chrysler Junior Classic Horseshoe Bay Resort, Slick Rock Course — Par 72 June 21-24, 1999

Boys Division

- 1 Brett Callas, Huffman, Texas 71-69-67—207
2 Hunter Mahan, McKinney, Texas 67-73-69—209

Girls Division

- 1 Christl Cano, San Antonio, Texas 73-71-71—215

Rolex delivers youngest champ ever *Oh finishes early, watches from gallery as fate unfurls*

Naree Wongluekiet of Bradenton, Fla., became the youngest player to win the Rolex Tournament of Champions by firing a 66-68-77-73—284 at the Ohio State University Golf Course.

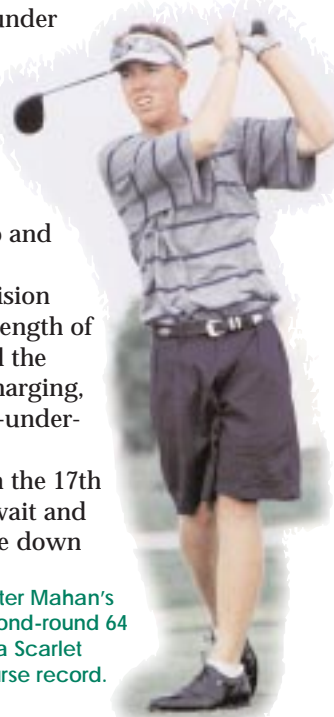
After opening a first-round lead with a 4-under 66 on the Gray Course, the 13-year-old had fallen behind by a stroke entering the final day. Firing 1-under-par through 17 holes, Wongluekiet had retaken a comfortable lead by four strokes. Despite a double bogey at the 18th, Wongluekiet still claimed one of junior golf's biggest victories, edging out Angela Rho and Virada Nirapathpongorn by two strokes.

A double bogey at No. 18 by the Boys Division leader led to vastly different results. On the strength of a Scarlet Course record 64, Hunter Mahan held the lead early in the final round. With James Oh charging, the duo were knotted up late in the round at 6-under-par.

Oh fell behind by a stroke with a bogey on the 17th hole. After paring the 18th, he was forced to wait and watch as Mahan, Ron Won and David Oh came down the 18th.

Mahan's drive found the fairway bunker, leading him to make double bogey, while neither Won nor Oh could close the gap. James Oh won by a stroke over the trio.

Hunter Mahan's second-round 64 set a Scarlet Course record.



Rolex Tournament of Champions Ohio State University Golf Course Scarlet Course — Par 72; Gray Course Par 70 July 6-10, 1999

BOYS DIVISION

- 1 James Oh, Lakewood, Calif. 70-70-73-70—283
T2 Ron Won, Irvine, Calif. 73-69-69-73—284
Hunter Mahan, McKinney, Texas 73-64-75-72—284
David Oh, Cerritos, Calif. 73-66-73-72—284
T5 Travis Whisman, Reno, Nev. 76-69-73-68—286
Will Claxton, Swainsboro, Ga. 72-68-75-71—286
T7 Ryan Hybl, Colbert, Ga. 71-72-74-70—287
Christo Greyling, Orlando, Fla. 69-70-76-72—287
Joey Ramos, Palm Desert, Calif. 74-73-68-72—287
T10 Bill Haas, Greer, S.C. 71-68-78-71—288
Michael Maness, Galivants Ferry, S.C. 71-76-69-72—288
T12 J.J. Wall, San Antonio, Texas 74-71-73-71—289
Troy McKinley, Danville, Calif. 73-70-73-73—289

GIRLS DIVISION

- 1 Naree Wongluekiet, Bradenton, Fla. 66-68-77-73—284
T2 Angela Rho, Fullerton, Calif. 71-69-75-71—286
Virada Nirapathpongorn, Bangkok, Thailand . . 68-66-77-75—286
T4 Leigh Anne Hardin, Martinsville, Ind. 71-71-72-73—287
Danielle Downey, Spencerport, N.Y. 69-70-71-77—287
6 Tai Perry, Kennett Square, Pa. 67-72-76-73—288
T7 Nancy Abiecunas, Fort Collins, Colo. 72-73-73-72—290
Candie Kung, Fountain Valley, Calif. 71-70-76-73—290
Aree Wongluekiet, Bradenton, Fla. 69-69-76-76—290
10 Celeste Troche, Asuncion, Paraguay 67-73-79-73—292

*NOTE: Girls Division played first two rounds on Gray Course; all other rounds were played on Scarlet Course



David Oh and Angela Rho followed up their Nabisco wins by taking second at Rolex.



Compaq Junior Championship at Trophy Lake
Trophy Lake Golf & Casting — Par 72
June 21-24, 1999

Boys Division

- 1 # Reid Hatley, Spokane, Wash.69-75-75—219
- 2 Thomas Park, Vancouver, B.C.73-72-74—219
- 3 Brock MacKenzie, Yakima, Wash.74-72-75—221

won on second hole of sudden-death playoff

Girls Division

- 1 Erica Blasberg, Corona, Calif.71-76-75—222
- 2 Lauren Ressler, Bellingham, Wash.79-78-73—230
- 3 Paige McKenzie, Yakima, Wash.75-78-78—231

Ashworth Bluegrass Junior Invitational
Bellefonte Country Club — Par 70
June 22-25, 1999

Boys Division

- 1 # Adam Shanks, Johnson City, Tenn. . .69-71-67—207
- 2 Peter Rivas, New Orleans, La.70-67-70—207

won on second hole of sudden-death playoff

Girls Division

- 1 Leigh Anne Hardin, Martinsville, Ind. .71-66-72—209
- 2 Whitney Code, Tampa, Fla.70-70-70—210

Ashworth Oklahoma Junior Classic
Oak Tree Country Club, East Course — Par 70
June 28-July 1, 1999

Boys Division

- 1 Ben McCaslin, Dallas, Texas70-73-69—212
- 2 Chris Noel, Tulsa, Okla.71-72-70—213
- T3 Matt Lindholm, Georgetown, Texas .71-72-73—216

Dustin White, Pueblo West, Colo.67-75-74—216

Girls Division

- 1 Nancy Abiecunas, Fort Collins, Colo. .71-73-77—221
- 2 Christi Cano, San Antonio, Texas . . .74-74-74—222

PING Langdon Farms Junior Classic
Langdon Farms Golf Club — Par 71
June 28-July 1, 1999

Boys Division

- 1 Corey Prugh, Spokane, Wash.67-72-71—210
- T2 Ricky Barnes, Stockton, Calif.69-74-71—214

Jason Hartwick, Sacramento, Calif. . .69-74-71—214

Girls Division

- 1 Allison Hanna, Portland, Ore.66-71-71—208
- 2 Jessica Reese, Santa Rosa, Calif. . . .70-77-72—219

Buick Junior Open
The Captain's Club at Woodfield — Par 72
June 28-July 1, 1999

Boys Division

- 1 Peter Karmis, Simonstown, South Africa .70-72—142
- 2 Calvin Kupeyan, Tecumseh, Ontario . .72-72—144

Girls Division

- 1 Leigh Anne Hardin, Martinsville, Ind. .76-76—152
- T2 Katie Redeker, Pepper Pike, Ohio . . .74-79—153

Heather Zielinski, Sylvania, Ohio76-77—153

Hargray Junior Classic at Indigo Run
The Golden Bear Golf Club — Par 72
June 29-July 1, 1999

Boys Division

- 1 Brent Delahoussaye, Greer, S.C.69-69-71—209
- T2 Will Claxton, Swainsboro, Ga.69-70-75—214

Derek Brown, Walnut Cove, N.C.68-74-72—214

Girls Division

- 1 Candie Kung, Fountain Valley, Calif. .72-68-70—210
- 2 Virada Nirapathpongorn, Bangkok . .70-74-73—217

Jos. A. Bank Junior All-Star Classic
Kissimmee Bay Country Club — Par 71
July 5-7, 1999

Boys Division

- 1 Alex Hagmeyer, Naperville, Ill.76-73—149

Girls Division

- 1 Mandy Goins, Frankfort, Ky.76-73—149

IZZO/Compaq Junior at Rush Creek
Rush Creek Golf Club — Par 72
July 5-8, 1999

Boys Division

- 1 Tim Moody, Lindstrom, Minn.72-72-73—217
- 2 David Evenson, San Diego, Calif. . . .78-69-72—219
- 3 Michael Lewis, Waterloo, Iowa73-72-75—220

Girls Division

- 1 Yvonne Choe, Temple City, Calif. . . .74-71-77—222
- T2 Amanda Krane, Wantagh, N.Y.76-77-75—228

Lisa Meshke, Blooming Prairie, Minn. .75-74-79—228

First-time winners take Trophy Lake



Reid Hatley's 3-under 69 in the first round put him on track for his first AJGA title.

In only her second AJGA event, 14-year-old Erica Blasberg of Corona, Calif., played like a seasoned veteran, winning the inaugural Compaq Junior Classic at Trophy Lake Golf & Casting in Port Orchard, Wash.

After jumping to a four-stroke lead with a 1-under 71 in the first round, Blasberg turned on the cruise control. If there was ever any doubt about the victory, Blasberg eliminated it by playing the last four holes of the tournament at 2-under-par to win by eight shots.

"I love when people are watching and everyone is gathered near the 18th green," she said. "I practice so that when I'm in these situations, I can finish strong."

The Boys Division was taken by 18-year-old Reid Hatley of Spokane, Wash., who squeaked past Thomas Park of Vancouver, B.C., in a sudden-death playoff.



Erica Blasberg was the only girl to fire below par.

Tournament Notes June 14 - July 10

MULTIPLE WINNERS

Victories have recently come in pairs for some juniors.

Nancy Abiecunas won the Las Vegas and Ashworth Oklahoma events, with a runner-up finish at Nabisco Mission Hills sandwiched in between.



NANCY ABIECUNAS

Angela Rho won Nabisco two weeks after joining with Kim Rowton to win the Justin Leonard team event.

THE TRAVELER

Candie Kung ventured far from her California residence to pick up a big win against one of the top competitors in the race for Player of the

Year. Kung outplayed Virada Nirapathpongorn at the Hargray Junior to solidify her No. 1 spot in the *Golfweek*/Titleist girls ranking.

UNDER THE WEATHER

Rainy weather wreaked havoc at the Buick Junior Open, forcing a premature conclusion to the event when the course was renedered unplayable after two rounds. South African Peter Karmis and Leigh Anne Hardin were crowned champions after 36 holes.



ALLISON HANNA

TAKING IT DEEP

Allison Hanna set a tournament record by firing a 5-under-par 66 at PING Langdon Farms. The round launched Hanna to her first AJGA victory by 11 strokes.

AN ALL-STAR IS BORN

Laura Manuel, 14, won her second Junior All-Star Series event in the past year at Mission Hills. Manuel also won the 1998 Junior All-Star Classic at Magnolia Grove.

The Voice Box

Looking for a few good stories

Inside the AJGA is always searching for an inspiring, thought-provoking, or otherwise entertaining story among the golfers of the American Junior Golf Association.

The story of Kevin Hall (at right) is a perfect example of such a story. It is an indicator of the human spirit's remarkable ability to overcome affliction, even to the point of using one's trials to become a better person.

At *Inside the AJGA*, we welcome guest contributions from juniors, parents, or other friends of the AJGA who know of a story such as this. It is hoped that by telling these kinds of stories, we may all be uplifted and inspired to try a little harder or appreciate what we have a little more.

There are many stories worth telling. For example, Brandon Askew and Whitney Wade (both pictured at right) are both worthy of mention here.

Askew is one of many AJGA members who excel at more than one sport. Growing up in North Dakota, as you can imagine, he plays ice hockey.

Earlier this year, Askew led his high school team to the state hockey championship. He was the tournament's leading scorer. Perhaps we'll see him playing golf at the NCAA Division I level; perhaps he'll be playing hockey. But don't be surprised to see him succeed in both.

How about the story of 13-year-old Whitney Wade? Never mind that she won't turn 14 until mid-August, she has already earned the title of state amateur champion. In June, she became the youngest champion in the 73-year history of the Kentucky Women's State Amateur. Even as she faced a college golf coach in the final match, she was not intimidated. That's quite a story!

The AJGA welcomes submissions regarding AJGA tournament experiences or AJGA members. If you would like to submit a contribution to *Inside the AJGA* (articles of any length are welcome), please address it as follows:

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Roswell, GA 30076
- OR -
E-mail: rcoleman@ajga.org

Tales from the Road

Loss of hearing does not deter junior golfer

by David Weinberg, excerpts reprinted with permission from the Atlantic City Press

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP, N.J. —

Kevin Hall has never experienced the sounds of golf.

The Cincinnati teenager has never heard the *thwack* that accompanies a solid drive, the *kerplunk* that ends a perfect putt, the applause of an adoring gallery.

"It doesn't bother me," Hall said via sign language. "(Being deaf) has never had any effect on the way I play."

It certainly didn't bother him in Tuesday's opening round of the American Junior Golf Association's IZZO Junior Championship. Hall braved swirling winds, stifling heat and a tricky course to earn a share of first place at Sand Barrens Golf Club.

Hall was one of four players to shoot par 71, joining Brandon Knaub, Chris Nallen and Par Nilsson atop the boys division leaderboard after 18 holes of the 54-hole tournament.



KEVIN HALL

"This tournament is everything I thought it would be," said Hall, who's competing in his first AJGA event. "I didn't come here expecting a pushover and it's not. The course is challenging and the competition is tough. But I'm real pleased with the way I played."

According to his mother, Hall lost his hearing at age 2 1/2 after contracting H flu meningitis. He was introduced to golf at 9, when a family friend offered to give him lessons.

Now 16, Hall's a sophomore at Cincinnati's St. Rita's School for the Deaf and also plays varsity golf for Winton Woods High School.

"There's nothing to do in the summer where I live except bowl, so I decided to try golf," said Hall, who's a scratch bowler with a 200 average. "I still like bowling, but golf's my favorite sport. I was hooked the first time I picked up a club."

Teeing off

Throughout your golf career, what has been your most embarrassing moment?



Brandon Askew, 17
Fargo, N.D.

At Oak Tree in Edmond, Okla., I put five balls in the water on a par 3 to make an 11.



Whitney Wade, 13
Glasgow, Ky.

Missing a 4-inch putt in the Kentucky State High School Tour when I was nine years old.



Brett Ashmore, 17
Sour Lake, Texas

At the Doral, I was in a fairway bunker. I hit out and I couldn't see it, so I ran out, but tripped over the lip and fell.



Richard Audette, 17
Warwick, R.I.

I was practicing my chipping and I shanked one and hit a lady member at my country club.

Sponsors assist AJGA for right reasons

Association encourages members to return their support

It goes without saying that it would be impossible for the AJGA to conduct a single golf tournament without the help of its generous sponsors. The many sponsors that are visible at each AJGA tournament are investing not only in junior golf, but in tomorrow's professionals and leaders.

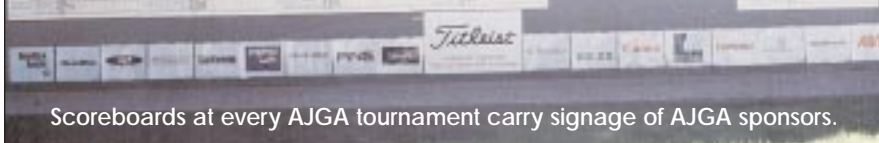
Sponsors assist the AJGA in conducting first-class golf tournaments through financial and product support. In addition, they are dedicated to furthering the development of young men and women in junior golf.

Because its sponsors are a vital component of the AJGA tournament experience, the AJGA urges its members to seek out and thank them at each event. These are the individuals that allow aspiring junior golfers to compete at the highest level on the nicest golf courses in the world.

"A 'hello and thank-you' can truly go a long way," says Mark Brazil, AJGA director of development. "The AJGA hopes each junior will take advantage of the names and addresses provided for each tournament to write thank-you letters."

The AJGA also encourages members to support its sponsors by purchasing and utilizing the items they produce.

"We hope that our members will choose to support AJGA sponsors, just as the sponsors choose to support junior golf for the right reasons," Brazil says. "These are simple ways to show appreciation and support for the people that make each AJGA tournament possible."



Scoreboards at every AJGA tournament carry signage of AJGA sponsors.

Volunteer Spotlight

The driving force behind Nabisco Mission Hills

Behind the scenes at any AJGA tournament are volunteers who freely devote their time and efforts. The American Junior Golf Association is ever grateful to these individuals for making each of its 55 tournaments and 34 qualifiers possible.

Through the Digger Smith Award, the AJGA periodically recognizes individuals who have made a difference because of their service. Earlier this year, Steve Storm of Rancho Mirage, Calif., was presented the Digger Smith Award for his dedication to the Nabisco Mission Hills Desert Junior, one of the AJGA's longest running tournaments.

The 18th annual Nabisco Mission Hills has just been completed, and working behind the scenes throughout the history of the event has been tournament chairman Steve Storm. Over the years, Storm has raised more than \$200,000 toward junior golf and heads a team of 20 volunteers that assist in organizing the AJGA event. Storm also serves as Tournament Operations Manager for the LPGA Nabisco Dinah Shore.

"It is a great feeling to see these kids play golf and gain scholarships to schools all over the country," Storm said. "It is also very gratifying to see the kids build character and try to improve themselves through golf."



STEVE STORM

News & Notes

"MAJOR" TOURNAMENT SITES ANNOUNCED

The AJGA has secured sites for each of its rotating championships in the year 2000.

Serrano Country Club in El Dorado Hills, Calif., has been named as the site of the Rolex Tournament of Champions. Located in the hills of Northern California, where miners once panned for gold, Serrano was a scenic setting for the 1998 Canon Cup. It is also the home of a Senior PGA Tour event — the Raley's Gold Rush Classic.

Prairie Dunes Country Club in Hutchinson, Kan., will host the 11th annual Canon Cup. Ranked No. 12 among the nation's finest golf courses by *Golfweek*, Prairie Dunes has hosted several USGA Championships, as well as the 1986 Curtis Cup. It is also slated to be the site of the 2002 U.S. Women's Open.

The Lucent Technologies Boys Junior Championship will return to Dallas Athletic Club in 2000. Dallas Athletic Club was the site of the 1963 PGA Championship and the 1998 Lucent Technologies Boys Junior Championship.

AJGA BOARD MEMBER EMERITUS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

Bill Dickey, a longtime member of the AJGA Board of Directors, has been selected to receive the 1999 PGA Distinguished Service Award.

Dickey is the president and founder of the National Minority Junior Golf Scholarship Association and has worked for the past four decades to promote golf, especially programs geared toward minority youth. Dickey will be honored by the PGA of America at the PGA Championship in August.

AJGA NEWS CLIPPINGS

Each year, the AJGA Communications Department compiles news clippings about AJGA members and tournaments. AJGA media coverage can be quite extensive and any help by members, parents or others is appreciated. Please send clippings to:

Mark Stevens, Manager, Public Relations
2415 Steeplechase Lane
Roswell, GA 30076

JUNIOR MATCH SELECTION IS APPROACHING

The announcement of The Junior Match U.S. team will be made Aug. 9 on the AJGA Web site (www.ajga.org).

The Junior Match is slated for Sept. 20-22 at New Seabury Country Club, the week prior to the Ryder Cup. The Junior Match will feature a U.S. team (6 boys, 6 girls) versus a European team in a Ryder Cup-style event. The United States won the 1997 event, 7-5, in Spain. Following the matches, the teams will attend the Ryder Cup as guests of the PGA of America.

AJGA: On Location

The Cardinal Golf Club
Greensboro, N.C.
Par 70
Yardage: Boys 6,568; Girls 5,688

For the second straight year, the American Junior Golf Association returned to The Cardinal Golf Club, June 14-17, for the Greater Greensboro Chrysler Junior. John Carter III captured the Boys Division by two strokes, while Aree Wongluekiet came from behind with a final-round 68 to capture the Girls Division. Although birdies are extremely hard to come by on this challenging course, Catherine Cartwright was able to fire a 3-under-par 67 in the closing round to place third among the girls, behind Virada Nirapthongporn.

The Cardinal Golf Club



Kevin Floyd/AJGA

As one would expect from a Pete Dye design, The Cardinal Golf Club is challenging throughout. With its narrow fairways, undulating greens and elevation changes, the course will test its players on every shot. The par-4, 428-yard 18th, one of the course's defining holes, is pictured above.

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AJGA