

Defending champion takes one-shot lead with 75



April McCoy

Defending champion April McCoy, 17, of Carrollton overcame early putting problems to post a 5-over-par 75 at Rockwood Golf Course on a hot, humid morning at Rockwood Golf Course and managed a one-shot lead after the first round of the Fort Worth Junior Golf Association's City Junior Girls Golf Championship.

Marisa Marquez, a 12-year-old from Amarillo, missed a chance to tie April for the lead, but missed about a two-foot par putt on the 18th hole to fall back into second place by herself with a 76. She too had problems with her putter and guessed she had about five three-putt greens, including the 18th hole.

In third place at 78 are Eraina "Rainy" Manor, 16, of Trophy Club, Allison Bock, 17 of Southlake and Amy Kuprasertkul, 15, of Keller.



Marisa Marquez

In the 9-hole division, Jessica Simants, 12, of Azle carded the lowest score from the Red Tees with a 57, and from the Forward Tees, Angelique Francis, 10, of Murphy was low with a 31. Elizabeth Saenz, 15, of Arlington, was the low score from the 18-hole Red Tees with an 84.

The Championship Flight and First Flight (girls who scored 89 and better) will play the second round Tuesday at Ridglea Country Club North Course and the others (90-higher White Tees, Red Tees and 9-hole divisions) will play at Glen Garden Golf & Country Club.

April said she was confident coming into the tournament after finishing second two weeks ago at the Texas-Oklahoma Junior in Wichita Falls. But, "I had a tough start," she said. "I went par, bogey, double-bogey." She missed a three-foot putt for par on the second hole and three-putted the third.

"I came back pretty good. I had putts just going over the edge (of the hole) on the front," she said after posted a three-over 38. Her putting was more consistent on the back as she finished with a two-over 37.

She said it also was nice that the Rockwood fairways were fairly wide because her she was spraying her driver too much. "I'll need to hit it better tomorrow."

Marisa liked her ball striking, but had trouble with the Bermuda greens because her home course in Amarillo has bent greens. "These have more grain. I had a ton of three putts -- at least five."

Marisa, who won the 12-13 age division at the T-O, said she didn't come into this tournament with any kind of expectations. "I just want to play my own game. I wasn't expecting to win."

She and her mother are staying with a friend of her dad's while she's playing in the tournament.

Rainy was challenging to take the first-round lead after posting a 37 on the front nine, but she said she lost the tempo with her putter on the back and fell back with a 41.

Allison also was pleased with her ball striking, but she too couldn't get her putter to cooperate. She also is feeling good about her game after finishing eighth last week in a TJGT tournament in Irving with rounds of 78-78.