

14-year-old takes first-round lead



Kyoung Kim

With last year's runner-up and third-place finishers in the field, it was somewhat of a surprise that a 14-year-old newcomer to the tournament would take the first-round lead. Playing from the white tees but using the women's par of 72, Kyoung Kim, a Crowley High School student, shot a 4-over 76 at Glen Garden Golf & Country Club on Monday to take a shot lead over Jessie White, 17, of Mansfield and two over Kellie Martin in the 2012 Fort Worth Junior Golf Association's City Girls Junior

Championship.

Last year's runner-up Erica Lautensack, 16, of Arlington said she had four double-bogeys and cited short-game problems in carding an 81. Several other girls also had trouble with their short games on an overcast July 9 morning that provided a break from the recent 90-plus heat. At Glen Garden, a short game is considered vital because of the small greens, making them hard to hit in regulation. Erica finished two shots better than last year's third-place finisher Marisa Marquez, a 13-year-old from Amarillo (she played last year and has been given a one-year exemption after the eligibility rules changed this year.)

The 18-hole field will be split for Tuesday's second round. The low 31 girls will play at River Crest Country Club beginning at 7:30 a.m. and the others will join the 9-hole players at Diamond Oaks C.C., where they'll begin at 7 a.m. The three-day tournament ends Wednesday with the Championship and First flights going to Colonial C.C. and the others playing at Rockwood G.C. The awards will be at the Ben Hogan Center at Rockwood.

Kyoung, who also excels at playing the flute, said she has been playing golf for only two years, but already is enjoying success, such as a fourth place finish in her age group at the Starburst junior tournament in Waco and a first place in a tournament at Shady Valley.

"I didn't hit a lot of greens," she said of Monday's round. She wasn't one of the players who had problems around the greens, though. "My short game helped a lot."

Jessie played with new irons and a driver she added two weeks ago and she adjusted quickly to the new clubs. She, as Kyoung, leaned somewhat on her short game, especially her putter. "My putting was better than usual," she said. She had two double-bogeys on par-3 holes, though.

That was quite a contrast to Kellie, who said she had several putts that "lipped out," which somewhat negated her driving that she described as "really good." Kellie's round was derailed somewhat by a triple-bogey on the par-5 fifth hole.

In the 9-hole division, Quinn Barber build a six-shot lead by carding a 44 on the front nine from the red tees. Quinn, 12, of Grapevine, has an impressive list of golfing achievements, including being selected the fall 2011 US Kids Dallas Player of the year, the Spring 2012 US Kids Dallas Player of the Year, and qualifying for the US Kids World Championship in August in Pinehurst, N.C. Tied for second at 50 are Rachel Prewitt, 14, of Midlothian, and Jessica Simants, 13, of Azle. Rachel was the 9-hole First Flight winner last year. In the short tee 9-hole division, Amy Moon, 8, led the way with a 43.