

Leader ahead by one as boys head into final round at Colonial C.C.



Javier Manrique and Sean Walsh

Javier Manrique, 16, clipped two shots off par by firing a 69 at Mira Vista Country Club on Wednesday (July 18) to pull into a shot lead over Sean Walsh, 18, heading into Thursday's final round at Colonial Country Club in the 72-hole 2012 Boys City Junior Golf Championship. Manrique and Walsh are looking for some redemption at Colonial, where they have struggled.

Manrique rallied for a 4-under-par 32 on the back nine, including birdies on the final three holes, to post his 69 and 54-hole 213 total. Walsh carded a 1-under 70 for a 214 total. The Championship Flight

has played rounds at Meadowbrook G.C., Ridglea C.C. and now Mira Vista.



Johnny Jones

Three shots back is Johnny Jones, 16, who also carded a 70 over the 6,559-yard course. Last year's runner-up Luke Neeley, 17, rebounded from a 76 at Ridglea to shoot even-par 71 to trail by four. Second round leader Eric Valenzuela dropped out of the tournament when he and tournament officials realized that he lived outside the towns that players must be from to be eligible.

The Championship Flight was cut to the top 16 with 227 and lower going to Colonial. The First, Second and Third flights also will finish there. Second-round leader Eric Valenzuela withdrew before the start of the third round.



Luke Neeley

Manrique, who attends Liberty Christian School in Denton and was third in the TAPPS state golf tournament, said he started strong with a birdie on the par-4 first hole, but followed that with a bogey on the par-4 second hole. He finished the front at two-over par. "I had two three-putts on the front nine," he said. "I just told myself to make some birdies on the back and try to finish even par." He did better than that. He birdied the par-5 11th, then capped his round with birdies on the final three holes for his 32.

Manrique said he hasn't played that well at Colonial the past two years, finishing with a 76 last year and an 82 in 2010 when he was in the First Flight. He said he looks forward to improving in his third trip there.

Walsh, of Keller, said he also is looking for some redemption at Colonial. "I played really bad there last year," he said referring to his closing 81. Walsh said he played a practice round there a couple of weeks ago with a member and "played good," which lifted his confidence.

Walsh said he got "really lucky" on the first hole at Mira Vista when he thought he had hooked his tee shot into a hazard. "But I found the ball," and salvaged a par. He also had a string of three birdies, starting on hole seven. He almost bagged an eagle 2 on the par-4 eighth when his 50-yard wedge shot stopped on the lip of the hole. On the back nine, he said he scrambled for pars and then double-bogeyed the par-3 12th. But he birdied

16 and 18 to finish with a 36.

Jones, of Flower Mound and attend Byron Nelson High School in Trophy Club, said he made a lot more putts than he did at Ridglea when he shot a 74. "I had a lot more birdie putts. My wedges from 70 to 110 yards were also a lot better." He made two of his birdies on par-3 holes. A 25-footer for birdie on No. 10, he said "really boosted my confidence." He likes his position going into the final round. "I'm close enough to close the gap. It will take something under par...there are a lot of good players." This is his first appearance in the tournament and will be making his first trip around Colonial.

Neeley is in the hunt for the title for the third consecutive year and believes his experience at Colonial will help. "I learned a lot the last two years about Colonial," noting that being patient is one of the keys. "I felt I came back today. Yesterday was a tough round."

He got off to a good start by making the turn at 1-under 34 after birdies on Nos. 6 and 7 and a bogey on 9. Even though he said he didn't finish "very well" with bogeys on bogeys on 14 and 16, he is looking forward to contend again for the title.

Hud Morse, 17, a Martin High School player, aced the par-3 15th hole, which helped him make the Championship Flight cut with his 226 total.

Leading the First Flight are Hayden Springer, 15, of Trophy Club, and Zach Campbell, 15, of Benbrook. Springer was first team all district playing for Byron Nelson High School and placed 16th individually in the 4A state tournament. Connor Roberts, 18, of Keller is leading the Second Flight and Russell Schuljak, 15, of Mansfield is leading the Third Flight. The boys who played in the 18-hole match play division at

In the 9-Hole 12-13 and 7-11 division, they will be playing the finals in match play. Robert Collison, 13, of Fort Worth is meeting Kelvin Lee, 12, of Keller for the Championship. In the top flight (sixth) of the 7-11 division, Tucker Allen, 11, of Tolar is meeting Brendan Powers, 11, of Mansfield.