

Andrew Hudson takes first-round lead in 2013 boys championship



Andrew Hudson, 18, of Burleson shot an even-par 70 at Rockwood Golf Course on Monday (July 22) to take an early one-shot lead after the first round of the FWJGA Boys City Junior Golf Championship. Hudson, starting on the 363-yard par 4 17th because of a shotgun start, carded three birdies and three bogeys en route to his 36-34-70 score.

Hudson, a graduate of Southwest Christian High School, was on the school golf team that won three 4A TAPPS State Championships in 2010, 2012 and this year. He is a three-time All-State selection. Hudson will be awarded the Wendell Conditt Medalist Award for shooting the day's lowest score. The award, which will be presented at Thursday's awards ceremonies at Colonial C.C., is named after the long-time director of the tournament who announced his retirement this year. He helped the Men's Golf Association conduct the tournament for a few years and, after that association was disbanded, he almost single-handedly kept the tournament going in 1973, and he has been the guiding hand throughout the years.

The Division I players will compete at Ridgley C.C. North on Tuesday and Division II players will play at River Crest C.C. After the second round, Division I will be split into the Championship and First flights. Division II will be split into the Second and Third Flights. Those in the 18-hole division who didn't qualify for Division I or II will play at Riverside G.C. and Glen Garden G&CC and begin single-elimination match play. The 8-13 boys at Sycamore Creek will begin single-elimination match play. After Tuesday's rounds, the 18-hole Championship and First flight players will compete at Shady Oaks C.C. and the Second and Third flights will play at Mira Vista C.C. Those 14-18 boys playing match play will continue at Woodhaven C.C. The Championship, First, Second and Third flights will be cut to the low 16 (approximate) scores for the final round at Colonial. The six surviving players in the match-play flights will finish playing stroke play at Diamond Oaks C.C.

There were 311 who had registered in the 14-18 division and 81 in the 8-13 division as they begin a journey to secure trophies in their respective flights. The Championship Flight will be decided Thursday at Colonial Country Club.

Six golfers tied at 71, all coming from Rockwood, including Andrew Dixon, 18, of Mansfield; Zachary Smith, 18 of Fort Worth; Preston Woodard, 16 of Mansfield; William Mullins, 17 of Mansfield; Kyle Heenan, 17 of Colleyville and a Grapevine High player; and Matt Adler, 16 of Argyle. There were four others tied at 72s.

Adler got off to a shaky start with a bogey on his starting hole, No. 5. Through 10 holes, he was four-over-par, but rallied with three consecutive birdies, starting on No. 1. Adler was All-Team District and a regional qualifier this past season at Marcus High School.

Woodard, who won the TJGT Galveston Island Championship this year, cost himself at least a share of the lead by double-bogeying the 363-yard par-4 17th. The Mansfield High player started on the 15th hole and rallied with three birdies on the back, but bogeyed another short hole -- the 302-yard par-4 second.

Dixon is a two-time regional qualifier at Mansfield Legacy High School and was second-place medalist in district competition. Mullins, who also plays for Mansfield Legacy, was the 15-4A district champ, selected as All District and second team All Region 2-4A.

Smith, who won two high school tournaments and was runner-up in two others this past season when playing for Southwest High School, has accepted a scholarship to play at William Penn University.

The older boys played Monday at Rockwood G.C., Meadowbrook G.C. and Pecan Valley Hills G.C. The lowest 120 scores from the courses will form Division I and Division II. The younger boys are playing at Sycamore Creek G.C. and their first round scores will determine flights, and they'll begin single-elimination match play the second day.

The older boys who qualify for the two divisions will be divided into Championship, First, Second and Third flights after the second round. The boys who are not among Division I or Division II will begin single-elimination match play the second day.