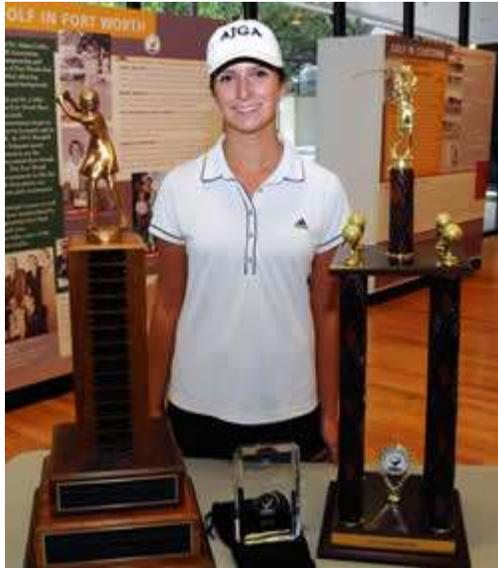


Erica Lautensack sails to victory by 15 shots



The top three finishers of the 2013 FWJGA Girls City Junior Golf Championship (from left): champion Erica Lautensack, runner-up Alexandra Schies, and Kim Kyong. Visit Thursday for more photos. Erica is shown below with the Championship Trophy, the permanent girls trophy with all the championships names inscribed and the Wendell Conditt Medalist Award for shooting the lowest score the first day.



After five holes at River Crest Country Club, Erica Lautensack figured she was on her way to victory in the 2013 FWJGA Girls City Junior Championship. And was she ever. Erica, 17, of Arlington shot a 5-over par 75 from the White tees on the relatively short, but tight course and cruised to a 15-shot victory on a warming, muggy Wednesday (July 17).

While her competitors constantly found the lurking trouble on the course, she avoided most of the misadventures and stumbled to only one double-bogey. That came on the 378-yard par-4 seventh when she tried to hit her second shot from the right rough. However, "I chunked it," and the ball plopped into the water hazard in front of the green. "I never should have tried that shot," she said. But she rebounded with a birdie on the next hole and never allowed her foes another opening.

"I just played my own game," Erica said as she watched her foes falling farther behind. Erica said she felt confident coming into the tournament and believed she had a chance to win. "I've been playing well (this summer), and winning feels great."

Erica posted a 54-hole 219 total, including a 70 at Glen Garden Golf & C.C. and a 75 at Ridglea C.C. North. She had two bogeys, a double-bogey and two birdies on the front for a 37, and matched that total on the back with two bogeys and no birdies. The closest to her was Alexandra Schies, a 17-year-old who attends The Oakridge in Arlington and has earned two Southwest Preparatory Conference medalist honors. She shot a final-round 79 for a 234. "I struggled in some places," Alexandra said. "I had a couple of three-putts, but I also hit a couple of trees that kicked the ball back to the fairways. This has been my best summer playing golf. Finishing second feels good."

Erica's playing partners, Jessie Smith, 18, of Mansfield and Kim Kyong, 15, from Crowley seldom seemed comfortable and couldn't minimize their mistakes. Jessie, last year's runner-up and in second place when the day started, though six behind, stumbled to a 45 on the front nine en route to an 85. She had two double-bogeys and a triple-bogey on the front. Kim fared a little better on the front, but a ball in the water on the seventh and an out-of-bounds on the eighth resulted in a triple-bogey and double-bogey for a front-nine 43. She rebounded with a 38 on the back for an 81 and take third place with a 235 total. Kim, who has been playing golf only three years, had a remarkable turnaround from last year. She was the first-round leader in 2012 after an opening 75 but nerves got to her the second round and she carded a 99 the second round and finished with a 92.

Winning the First Flight was Kellie Martin, 18, of Burlison. The Mansfield Legacy grad shot a 78 for a 243 total to beat Kyle Corey, 16, of Colleyville, who shot an 80 by two shots. Kyle, who attends Grapevine High School, was district champ this past season. Third place went to Zoey Claire DaneshFar, 18, of Trophy Club. She carded a 77 for a 246 total.

The second-best score of the day was a 76 by 15-year-old Alexandra Batista of Trophy Club. She finished with a 240 total.

Kellie Martin, 18, of Mansfield bounced back from a 90 at Ridglea C.C. to shoot a 78 at River Crest and win the First Flight by two shots with a 243 total. Hannah Vu, 12, of Haslet won the 9-hole Championship Flight with a final-round 45 at Rockwood G.C. to edge Anne Moon, 12, by a shot of Fort Worth. Anne finished with a 48.