

Erica Lautensack pads lead after second round of Girls City Junior Championship

Erica Lautensack stretched her three-shot first-round lead to six shots after the second round of play Tuesday at Ridglea Country Club's North Course on another mild July morning. Erica, 17, of Arlington carded five birdies from the White tees (6,097 yards) to help offset a double-bogey and six bogeys for a three-over par 75 and a two-day total of 145. She had opened with a two-under 70 at Glen Garden Golf & Country Club.



Erica Lautensack

Jessie White

The players at Ridglea, who had played in mostly light off-and-on rain at Glen Garden, weren't bothered by rain and enjoyed most overcast skies another relatively cool (high 70s and low 80s) morning.

The 30 golfers who played Ridglea were split into the Championship and First flights for Wednesday's final round at River Crest Country Club. The cut for the Championship Flight was 164. The higher scores will begin play at 8 a.m. The other 18-hole division players and 9-hole division competitors played at Diamond Oaks C.C. and will finish at Rockwood G.C. The awards will be presented at the Ben Hogan Learning Center at Rockwood.

Erica's lead was whittled to only one shot through eight holes Tuesday as last year's runner-up Jessie White, 18, of Mansfield was cruising along at 1-under par. But her bid to take the lead ended on the 510-yard par-5 ninth when she hit a ball out of bounds, three-putted and finished with a double-bogey 7 while Erica was notching her first to two consecutive birdies. The left-handed Jessie finished with a 77 and is alone in second at 151. Three shots behind Jessie is Kim Kyong, who shot a 78 at Ridglea despite several three putts. The 15-year-old from Crowley was district champ and 10th in the state tournament this past season.

Rachel Dahl, 17, of Mansfield, who was in second after a first-round 73, found trouble at Ridglea and carded an 86.

The second best score of the day was turned in by Jacey Patton, 17, of Fort Worth. She shot a 76 and is at 157. Two shots in front of her and in fourth place is Alexandra Schies, 17, who shot a 78 at Ridglea. Alexandra, who tied for 11th last year, attends The Oakridge School in Arlington and is a two-time Southwest Preparatory Conference medalist. Alexandra Jacey, who finished fourth in the girls tournament last year, has enjoyed success while playing for Temple Christian School. Among her achievements is winning the 2012-13 TAPPS 3A state championship, following two seasons of being

runner-up, and being chosen to the all-state team the past three seasons. She also was selected 2012-13 TAPPS 3A Academic All State.

Erica said her putting wasn't as good as it was Monday at Glen Garden, noting the Ridglea greens had more slope and were faster. Her double-bogey came on the par-4 fifth hole after she hit a tree on her drive, leaving about 250 yards to the green. And when she reached it, she three-putted. Overall, though, she said her short game continued to hold up, something that hasn't always been the case, leading her to work harder the past year to improve. "In practice, my short game was great," she said. Unfortunately, it didn't carry over in tournaments. But the short game started coming around in her previous tournament at the TPC Las Colinas, when she finished second after rounds of 75-74.

And because of her improved short game and steady play, Erica said she feels confident heading into the final round at River Crest. "It's a really tight course with a lot of out of bounds, but I like it."

Jessie managed her 77 despite four double bogeys, regaining four shots with birdies. Jessie said she was disappointed with her chipping, but said she didn't have to rely on it too much because she hit a lot of greens in regulation.

As a side note: Erica and Jessie shot 79 last year at River Crest.

In the 9-hole Championship Flight, Anne Moon, 12, of Fort Worth shot a 48 for a 99 total to pull two shots ahead of another 12-year-old, Hannah Vu of Hurst. Hannah, tied with Anne after the first round, shot a 50.