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WWGA 90th National Junior Championship Continues at Blackhawk Country Club

Madison, Wis. (July 12, 2016) ... When the first ball was in the air this morning, there was a slight breeze and light mist but as the day progressed, the clouds broke and the sun appeared on and off all day.

Playing together for both the first and second qualifying rounds, Sarah Fite, Maysville, Ky., Megan Watkins, Frankenmuth, Mich. and Isabella Abdullah, Medinah, Ill., all said how much they enjoyed meeting and playing with one another. Fite said, *“The course is in amazing shape, the greens were fun”* (on the front side putts tend to roll toward the railroad tracks, the greens on the back nine roll toward Lake Mendota.) Watkins said, *“I found a new friend in Sarah as we have a connection with the University of Kentucky.”* Fite will begin her freshman year at University of Kentucky in the fall. During the first round, Abdullah said, *“I only had one birdie and that was on 18; I was in the trees a lot and had to make up and down putts on the first hole then managed to par which set the tone for rest of the day.”*

Blackhawk Country Club was established on the shores of Lake Mendota in 1921. The area was shaped by glaciers leading to a hilly topography. The course area was populated by Native Americans who built effigy and burial mounds between 500 A.D. and 1500 A.D. These mounds include a flying goose, three bears, a panther, three conical mounds and two linear mounds. The Blackhawk Country Club Mound Group was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, effective August 1, 1979. When the club was chartered in 1921 the course was laid out so as to protect and preserve these mounds. Each hole was memorialized with a Native American name which remains today. The club is named after Chief Black Hawk who was the respected chief and leader of the Sauk and Fox nations.

Blackhawk, with its narrow tree-lined fairways, requires precision shot-making. The greens are undulating and require reading skill. According to Mequon, Wis. resident Rick Kent, the father of Speedy who is playing in the championship, *“This course provides a fair test of player skills comparable to moving pieces on a chess board. Ball positioning on the fairways determines your angle into the green and ball placement on the greens leads to varied outcomes.”*

In today's round, Mackenzie Hahn from Spring Grove, Ill. who shot a 39-39-78, said, *"The front nine I was 3-over but played pretty well. I birdied 10 and had steady pars and a couple bogies with a double-bogey on 15. On the 17th (a 406 yard par 5 hole) I had an eagle. I was 140 yards out and choked down on my 9 iron and landed 12 feet from the pin and rolled in the putt."*

In other qualifying rounds, Shannon Gould, O'Fallon, Mo., a left-handed player, shot a 75 on Monday and was 1 over with 74 today for a total 2-day 149. She is playing in her third WWGA Junior Championship. Gould has had an outstanding high school career and in 2015 won the St. Louis Women's District Golf Association title and was the Golfer of the Year for the St. Louis Post Dispatch. Medalist honors go to Shannon Gould, O'Fallon, Mo. with her 149.

Local player Loren Skibba from Verona, Wis. shot a 35-38-73. *"I was hitting my drives much better today and putts were finally dropping in. It was way windier today than yesterday. After the front nine, I was 1 under and on the back side quickly went to 2 under after the birdie on 11. I had a couple pars then a bogey on 14 and parred 16 and 17 and 3 putted the 18th."* After her round of 80 yesterday, her 2-day today of 153 easily places her in the Championship Flight.

Maddie Hawkins, Asbury, Ia. combined two-day total was 76-74-150. On the front nine she was 1 over par and even par on the back nine. Maddie's father is Jeremy, a PGA Head Golf Professional at The Meadows Golf Club in Asbury. This is the second time she is playing in the WWGA Junior. She recently won the John Deere Classic Junior Open and was the runner-up in the Big "I" (Iowa) qualifier in 2015.

The Marion Miley bracelet was created in 1941 in memory of Miss Marion Miley, Kentucky's all-time great golfer. She won the WWGA Amateur in 1935 and 1937. On September 28, 1941, at age 27, she was fatally wounded during a robbery in her apartment at the Lexington Country Club. The bracelet was originally awarded to the low qualifier in the Women's Western Open. When the Open was discontinued in 1967, the bracelet became the trophy for the low qualifier in the WWGA Amateur and Junior. Louise McCulloch, Wilmette, Ill. who had a total 158 for 2-day qualifier at the 116th WWGA Amateur and total 154 for this year's Junior.

The low 32 qualifiers will be placed in the Championship Flight; all others will go into flights. Match play will begin at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday morning with the First Flight going off prior to Championship Flight. Results and match play pairings are available on the WWGA website: www.wwga.org

The WWGA Junior was first held at Beverly Country Club in Chicago on July 26-27, 1920. The first event was a two-day medal play tournament; today this tournament is a Match Play Event.

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For more information:

Susan Wagner
WWGA National Media Director
Cellular: 630-347-0066

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