

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Women's Western Championship Finals Set**

Romeoville, Ill., June 29, 2018 ... After playing four consecutive days, or two-day stroke play qualifying rounds and two rounds of match play, eight players advanced to the Quarterfinal this morning at the Women's Western Golf Association's 118th National Amateur Championship being held at Mistwood Golf Club in Romeoville, Ill.

In the first match, tournament Medalist Emilee Hoffman, Folsom, Calif. defeated Brigitte Thibault, Quebec, Canada 6 & 5. Hoffman was 4 up at the turn, or 1-under 35. Her only birdie on the front side was the par 5, 514 yard 3rd hole; she won the match on 13. Thibault's only birdie of the day was on the 12th, 369 yard par 4. "Brigitte is a great player. The course is in excellent shape and the greens are rolling well, so I made a lot of putts today," Hoffman said.

Katharine Patrick, West University Place, Tex. defeated Magdalena Simmermacher, Buenos Aires, Argentina 1 up. Patrick started the match with a double bogey on the 1st and bogey on the 2<sup>nd</sup>; she made her only birdie on the front with a 3 on the 401 yard hole 4th hole, after nine she was 1-down. Simmermacher's lone birdie on the front came on the 316 yard 2nd hole. On the back, both players birdied the 403 yard 11th; Patrick made birdies on the 175 yard 14th and 512 yard 15th; Simmermacher had pars on 15, 16, and 17 but it was too late, Patrick won the match on 18. Patrick said, "The match was intense and I am tired after going 22 holes yesterday and 18 holes this morning." She will meet Hoffman in the Semifinal match.

Tristyn Nowlin, Richmond, Ky. defeated Brianne Bolden, Mokena, Ill. 3 & 2. On the front side Nowlin had birdies on the 2nd and 3rd holes while Bolden's only birdie came on the par 4, 355 yard 6th. On the back nine, Nowlin made birdies on the 11th and 12th, Bolden was even par on the back with a birdie on the par 4, 322 yard 13th. Bolden said, "I was even when we finished and felt like I didn't lose, she was making putts from all over; if Tristyn was on the green, the ball was going in the hole."

The Ellie Szeryk, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada match ended with Szeryk defeating Allisen Corpuz, Waipahu, Hi 3 & 2. Szeryk was 3 up after nine, she made birdies on the 5th and 7th; Corpuz made one birdie on the 3rd hole. On the back side, Corpuz made a birdie on the 323 yard 10th and the 15th; Szeryk birdied the par 4, 403 yard 11th. Szeryk said, "I knew I had to play well today because Allisen is a good player so I had to stay on my toes on every shot." Corpuz stated, "I love this tournament and hopefully will be back next year." Szeryk, whose sister Maddie was the 2017 WWGA Amateur Champion is currently playing in the Ladies' British Open Amateur Championship. Szeryk faces Tristyn Nowlin in the Semifinal match.

At conclusion of the Semifinal matches, there will be two players vying to become the 118th Women's Western Golf Association's Amateur Champion.

The afternoon semifinal matches were played in unpleasantly hot, humid weather. In the first match between Katharine Patrick and Emilee Hoffman, it was Hoffman winning 1 up in a very tight match.

Hoffman birdied the 2nd, bogeyed the 3rd and 9th on the front side while Patrick started par, par, birdie, then bogeyed 4, birdied 7, and bogeyed the 8th. On the back side, Hoffman started with a bogey 5 on 10 then made pars through 15 and finished birdie, par, par. Patrick made pars from 10 to 17.

The Tristyn Nowlin versus Ellie Szeryk match was won by Nowlin 2 & 1. On the front side Nowlin was even par through 8 and bogeyed 9. Szeryk bogeyed 2 and 3 and recovered with birdies on 5 and 7 and bogeyed 9. Nowlin began the back even par through 16 and bogeyed 17. Szeryk started 10 with a birdie, followed by 3 pars, bogeyed 14 and 16 and made a double bogey on 17.

The finals being played on Saturday morning will find #1 seed Emilee Hoffman against Tristyn Nowlin, the #10 seed in the final match. Hoffman attends the University of Texas, her honors and awards include 2017 World University Games Team Golf Medalist (USA); All-Big 12 Conference (2018); Academic All-Big 12 (2017 First Team, 2018 First Team); Academic All-Big 12 Rookie Team and Big-12 Academic Honor Roll (Spring and Fall 2017.) In her sophomore (2017-18) year, she competed in all 13 tournaments and 38 rounds for the Longhorns; recorded 5 rounds at par or better.

Nowlin attends the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Her sophomore year (2017-18) includes: All-Big Ten Second Team; Big Ten Preseason Honoree; posted the second-best single season stroke average in the program's history (72.59); tied for second place overall at the Mountain View Collegiate, marking a career best finish; tied the ninth best individual round in school history (68, 4-under) at Briar's Creek Invitational and competed in 11 out of the 12 tournaments of the season.

When asked about hosting the Women's Western Championship, Mistwood Golf Club's Owner Jim McWethy, who has a passion for golf, stated, "It is going extremely well! I find great satisfaction seeing the players having a good time and enjoying the course. We're providing a top-notch experience for those traveling from 25 states and nine countries." He continued, "Although not a private golf club, our course, clubhouse and "golf performance center" rival and even surpass those at some of the finer private clubs. Ben Kelnhofer, our Superintendent, prides himself in maintaining the conditions of the course as one would find at a private facility." McWethy said he is looking forward to the final match between Hoffman and Nowlin tomorrow. The next major tournament being held at Mistwood Golf Club will be the Phil Kossin Illinois Women's Open, July 16-18.

The 36-hole final match will be played on Saturday when the Champion will have her name inscribed on the W. A. Alexander Cup. In 1901, Mr. Alexander presented the WWGA with the Cup named in honor of his wife, Maude Alexander, the first President of the WWGA. Names engraved on the Cup include: Patty Berg, Betty Jameson, Dot Germain, Louise Suggs, JoAnne Gunderson Carner, Catherine Lacoste, Debbie Massey, Nancy Lopez, Mary Hafeman, Amy Benz, Joanne Pacillo, Moira Dunn, Cristie Kerr, Grace Park, Meredith Duncan, Brittany Lang, Jennifer Hong, Stacy Lewis, Ariya Jutanugarn, Ashlan Ramsey, and Mika Liu to mention a few.

The Finalist will have her name inscribed on the Babe Didrikson Zaharias Memorial trophy which was donated by members of the Nashville Golf & Athletic Club when this tournament was held there in 1987. The trophy is one of Babe's golf clubs, it is attractively framed and hangs in the entry of the clubhouse.

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