

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brentwood, Tenn., Wednesday, June 17, 2015 ... Match play began today at the 115th Women's Western Golf Association's National Amateur Championship being held at Nashville Golf & Athletic Club in Brentwood, Tenn. There are seven flights, Championship and First through Sixth. The picturesque course is set at 6,073 yards, par 36-36-72.

At the end of yesterday's two-day stroke play qualifier, seven players were tied at 155 for one remaining spot in the Championship Flight of 64. Earning that last spot with a birdie putt on the first play-off hole was **Annie Dulman**, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Dulman will be a Senior at Rollins College, she is majoring in Political Science with a minor in Studio Art. Her Mother also played golf in college at the University of Kentucky.

Medalist honors went to 16-year-old **Sierra Brooks** from Sorrento, Fla. who carded a two-round 137. She will have her name engraved on the Margaret Lenz silver cup. Brooks, who won the AJGA Polo Invitational in 2014 as well as the SALLY tournament in 2015, has appeared as a guest on the Golf Channel's 'Morning Drive Show' and spoke on behalf of the Junior Ryder Cup Team USA during the 2014 Ryder Cup opening ceremonies. Brooks, the number one seed, defeated Dulman in the first match of the day by a 5 & 3 margin.

Some highlights of the day ...

In one of the Championship Flight matches, between **Kelsey Murphy**, Plymouth, Mich. and **Brooke Cusumano**, Creve Couer, Mo., Murphy, who is going for her Nursing Degree at Eastern Michigan and was the 2013 Women's Western Junior Finalist stated, *"I've played in three WWGA Amateur tournaments and this is the first time I've ever won a first round match."* Murphy said her opponent's tee shot hit a grassy slope on the right edge of the 10th hole (a 156 yard par 3) and rolled into the water. She said, *"Brooke's ball was half-way submerged and she waded into the water with her shoes on, and hit the ball onto the green – 10' from the pin!"* Overall, Murphy prevailed and won the match 5 & 3.

The longest match of the day took place in the Third Flight. It took **Amira Alexander** from Alpharetta, Ga. nine extra holes to defeat **Niki Schroeder**, Avon Lake, Ohio. After finishing the 18th hole all square, they started their play-off back on the first tee for the second time of the day. Alexander, who will be a Senior at University of Georgia said, *"The match started par, and then par, and then another par and then another par. Both Niki and I said we hoped someone would win before getting back to the 6th hole (a 166 yard par 3 that has an elevated green) because it is quite a hike."* That did not materialize. Alexander's brother Damari caddied for her, after the match she said, *"He is quite a comedian and joked around and tried to keep it light throughout the nine extra holes which helped all of us in the steamy heat of the day."* Schroeder who will begin her Freshman year at The Ohio State University in the fall said, *"I had an unfortunate break on the last hole (the 9th hole, a 363 yard par 4) when I put it in the bunker and it didn't release so I ended up with a bogey and losing the match."* Although very tired after playing 27 holes in the hot and humid afternoon, both were smiling and said they will always remember their long, long match.

Rachel Carpenter from St. Simon's Island, Ga. has been a loyal contestant at WWGA championships. She played in the association's Junior tournaments a number of times and the Amateur tournament from 2006 to 2010. According to Carpenter, she has been struggling with her game and has had a lot of trouble with her putting which has crept into the rest of her game. Both her parents were Navy Pilots; her mother Wendy, said after Rachel's win today, *"I played 'the Admiral' and last night went out bought her a new putter and told her she was going to play with it!"* She did indeed use the new putter and won her match against Kit Creighton, Buffalo, N.Y. who will be a Senior at Florida Southern College in the Fall.

The reigning WWGA Junior Champion, **Annika Bovender** from Mount Pleasant, S.C. lost to **Karen Chung** from Livingston, N.J., by a margin of 2 & 1. Chung will be a Junior at University of Southern California majoring in Communications and Bovender will start her Freshman year at Furman University.

The Derby Cup, a trophy that is awarded to two players from the same Women's Western Member Club, is given to the players with the lowest combined gross score from the 36-hole qualifying round. This year's winners are Jennifer Kupcho and Hannah Wood, members at Common Ground Golf Club in Aurora, Colo.

The Maschmeyer Cup trophy is awarded to four players from the same state or foreign country with the lowest combined gross score from the 36-hole qualifying round. The State of Florida won with a combined total score of 582; players include: Sierra Brooks (137), Abbey Carlson (149), Hally Leadbetter (149) and Alex Milan (147).

ALL RESULTS FOR WEDNESDAY'S ROUND WILL BE POSTED ON WWGA website.

Match Play Pairings for Thursday will be posted on www.wwga.org

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For more information:

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