Play commenced at 7:00 am in the First Round of the Women’s Western Golf Association’s (WWGA) 114th National Amateur Championship being held at Lancaster Country Club, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Leaders in the clubhouse with a 1 under score at 71 are Emily McLennan, Jimboomba, Queensland, Australia; and Eunice Yi, Evans, Georgia. McLennan is studying in the United States at the University of Tennessee (Chattanooga) and Yi is at Georgia Regents University (formerly called Augusta State University).

Turning in Par 72’s were Sirene Blair, South Jordan, Utah; Allison Emrey, Charlotte North Carolina; Megan Khang, Rockland, Massachusetts; and Emily White, Saline, Michigan.

Carding a 1 over score at 73 were Aliea Clark, Carlsbad, California; Josee Doyon, Beauceville, Quebec, Canada; Shannon Gramley, Sharon, Pennsylvania; Cammie Gray, Northport, Alabama; Delaney Howson, Newmarket, Ontario, Canada; Mika Liu, Beverly Hills, California; Katie Petrino, Louisville, Kentucky; Niki Schroeder, Avon Lake, Ohio; and Valerie Tanguay, Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada.
Among the Pennsylvania contingent were Allison Cooper, Harrisburg (74) Erica Herr, New Hope (76); Stani Schiavone, Bangor (76); Liz Breed, Waynesboro (77), Noreen Mohler, Bethlehem (77); Allison Weaver, Lititz (77); Ashley Cassidy, Doylestown (79); Ann Colligan, Kittanning (79); Emily Gimpel, Lafayette Hill (79), Kate Granahan, Allentown (79); Amanda Ploener, Chadds Ford (80); and Nadia Luttner, Pittsburgh (80).

Lancaster resident Aislynn Merling carded an 85. Merling had a big decision to make earlier this Spring whether or not to participate in the WWGA National Amateur Championship or join her family on their annual trip to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Her brother Eric, who is her caddy, said he would go along with whatever decision Merling would make. She had placed 2nd in the 2014 Horizon League Championship as a member of the Youngstown State team and was feeling confident about her game. After checking the Entry List on the WWGA Website she decided to enter the event, fully aware of the strength of the field.

Three players who competed in last week’s USGA Women’s Open at Pinehurst #2 failed to make the cut and made their way to Lancaster for this week’s event. Megan Khang shot Par 72; Jessica Porvasnik, Hinckley, Ohio (74) and Sierra Sims, Austin, Texas (76).

After talking to many players today the same comments seem to be repeated:

“The golf course is one of the prettiest that I have even played”.

“The back nine is harder than the front nine.”

“You are in trouble if you are above the hole.”

“The golf course set up was tough, but fair.”

“This is a great venue for this tournament.”

“There are a lot of good players here.”

Round #2 is tomorrow. After completion of the rounds, the low 64 will be placed in Championship Flight based on their qualifying score. There may be
a Playoff for the final places in this flight. The other contestants will be placed in subsequent flights. Wednesday will bring the 1st day of single elimination Match Play where the loser in the match will say farewell to Lancaster Country Club.

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