

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brentwood, Tenn., Saturday, June 20, 2015 ... It took all 36 holes of the Championship Flight 36-hole Finals for a winner to be declared. The victor was **Chakansim (Fai) Khamborn** from Thailand defeating **Lydia Gumm** from Radcliff Ky. 1-up. Neither player ever held more than a 2-up lead.

The morning match got underway at 7:00 a.m. with gray clouds above and a slight mist. Both players had pars on the first two holes; on the 3rd hole, a 492 yard, par 5, Gumm made birdie to Khamborn's par; advantage Gumm as she went 1-up. The next hole, Khamborn bounced right back with a par and Gumm a bogey, match was all square. On the 6th hole, Kamborn made par and Gumm a bogey 4; match was now 1-up Khamborn and remained that way until the 11th hole when Gumm made a bogey five and Khamborn a double bogey 6 and the match was back to all square, it didn't last long, Khamborn made a birdie on the 12th and Gumm par. On the par 5, 444 yard 13th hole, Gumm was on in regulation three and Khamborn had bogey bringing the match back to all square. On the 15th hole, Gumm was back to 1-up when she birdied the 521 yard par 5 hole. The final three holes both players had pars.

When the second eighteen commenced right before noon, the sun was shining and the temperatures were warming up. Gumm had arrived at the tee still 1-up from the morning. She put her second shot in the water, and the hole was conceded as Khamborn's second shot was on the green and made her birdie putt, match all square. The 2nd hole (or the 20th of the day), Khamborn's drive was in the left rough and second shot over the green; Gumm's second shot was on the fringe, pin high 10 feet to the hole, she made par to Khamborn's bogey, Gumm back to 1-up. The 3rd (21st hole) both missed birdie opportunities and made par. Gumm won the 4th (22nd) hole with a par and was now 2-up and remained that way as both continued to have pars on the next five holes, or 5th through 9th holes (23rd through 27th holes of the day). On the 10th hole, a 156 yard par 3 (28th hole of the day), Khamborn made a 7 foot birdie putt putting Gumm back to 1-up. The 11th, 12th, and 13th (29th through 31st holes) both had pars. On the par 5, 444 yard 32nd hole, Khamborn was 8 feet in front in front of the pin and Gumm 10 feet in back, her birdie attempt missed by inches; Khamborn birdied; match was now once again all square. Pars were made on holes 15 and 16 by both players. On the 17th (35th hole) par 3, 158 yard hole, as the winds were starting to pick up, Khamborn made about a 27 foot putt to put the match in her favor. On the 18th (36th hole), it looked as though the match could go back to even and require a play-off when Khamborn's drive veered to the right and landed on the cart path; she was given relief from an immovable obstruction, i.e., cart path and punched her next shot through the trees. Gumm's drive was straight down the middle of the fairway, her second shot landed in the bunker, her next shot rolled about 15 feet from the cup. Khamborn's chip shot to the green landed just shy of 6 feet, she made the putt and the 115th Women's Western Amateur Championship was now in the history books.

From the time their first ball was in the air on Monday until the final putt was made on Saturday, both players had walked 162 holes of golf in six days or 9 rounds, if practice rounds were to be included it could easily have been ten or eleven rounds.

Lydia Gumm will be a Senior at Florida State University in the fall; her major is Sports Management. A unique aspect of Lydia is she is right-handed but plays golf left-handed. Her amateur career has been stellar: winner of last year's Kentucky State Amateur and Runner-up the previous year.

While in high school Gumm was a 5-time “Kentucky Miss Golf.” No stranger to low scoring, she has shot 61 twice while playing in the Kentucky Invitational. She has been close enough that perhaps someday she will go into the elite “59 Club”.

Following the match she said, *“So many missed opportunities today, I couldn’t get that putter to work. Fai is a very good player and it was a great match, I congratulate her on the win.”* She continued, *“I thank everyone for a great week and the members of the club for letting us play their beautiful course.”* Even though she came close to winning, Gumm said that this was the first time she has made it to the finals in a national tournament and was very happy she had come that far. Her name will be added to the Finalist’s trophy which is proudly displayed at the Nashville Golf & Athletic Club. The trophy is a golf club mounted on wood that Babe Didrikson Zaharias had played with, it was donated by Charles and Barbara Whittemore, owners of Nashville Golf & Athletic Club when the 87th Women’s Western Amateur was held there in 1987. The trophy no longer travels with the Finalist, it remains on display at the club. Gumm’s name will be added with some prominent names in women’s golf who have been the Amateur Finalist (or Runner-up) including Vicki Goetz Ackerman, Emilee Klein, Carol Semple Thompson, Kellee Booth, Candie Kung, Meaghan Francella, Jennifer Hong, Dottie Ardina to mention just a few.

Chakansim Khamborn, or most known by her nickname of “Fai”, is only 15-years-old but has already won a number of championships including the Women’s Western 87th National Junior Championship held at Cincinnati Country Club when she was all of 12. She started playing golf in Thailand at age two with her father as her teacher and developed a love for the game. Both her younger brother and father are avid golfers. During the summer months she has stayed in Cincinnati with her Aunt Chang and Uncle Pat Boosin who have helped and encouraged her to play in tournaments. While in the United States, Jim Irvin from Cincinnati is her golf coach/teacher. When she was five she won her first tournament, that started a string of other wins. Recently she won the AJGA National Resource Partners Bluegrass in 2014; she qualified for the U. S. Women’s Amateur Championship in 2014 and was Runner-up at the AJGA Junior Open in 2013. Her list of golfing accomplishments is long and will continue to grow.

Although she calls home Thailand, she will be attending a high school in Cincinnati, Ohio this fall. On Monday she will go to a qualifier for the U. S. Junior Girl’s Championship and then on to the North/South Women’s Amateur in Pinehurst, N.C. There is no doubt that after defeating a string of top-ranked collegians that Fai will be able to pick and choose whatever college she will be attending.

She said, with the help of her Uncle Pat translating, *“This has been very memorable week especially having a hole-in-one on Tuesday (the par 3, 166 yard 6th hole), winning a match on the 19th hole and seeing some friends I’ve met and then winning the tournament, I am very, very happy and thank my Aunt Chang for caddying all rounds, all week and keeping me laughing (calm). I thank everyone from the Western Women’s for a wonderful week.”*

ALL RESULTS FOR THE TOURNAMENT INCLUDING MATCH PLAY TREES

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