

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WWGA 90th National Junior Championship Match Play Begins at Blackhawk Country Club, Madison, Wisconsin

Madison, Wis. (July 13, 2016) ... Match Play commenced this morning with the 32 low players from the 2-day stroke play qualifying rounds being placed in the Championship Flight. All other contestants were placed in first through fourth flights.

In Championship Flight matches, Shannon Gould, O'Fallon, Mo., the tournament Medalist, went 1-up on the first hole and was never down the entire match. On the back side she remained 4-up through 13 when her opponent Elyse Emerzian, Deerfield, Ill. won the next three holes bringing the match back to within 1 up; on the 17th hole, Gould won 2 & 1.

After the first hole, Arushi Singh, Naperville, Ill. was even par with Sarah Fite, Maysville, Ky. Singh then proceeded to win six out of the next eight holes; by the time she was headed to the tenth tee she was 6-up. Fite charged back and won 10, 12 and the 14th holes, but did not have enough time to stage a comeback when the match came to an end on the 15th with Singh winning 4 & 3. In the third match of Championship Flight, Abbey Pierce, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. was 1-up on the second hole and remained up the entire match to defeat Bailey Smith, Verona, Wis. 3 & 2.

There were four extra hole matches including Nichole Ciskowski, Barrington, Ill. defeating Amelia Root, Jacksonville, Fla. on the 20th hole. The other two matches that went 20 holes were Taylor McCorkle, Oregon, Wis. over Madison Isaacson, Greensboro, N.C. McCorkle said, *"It was a pretty close match the whole round. Neither one of us were on our "A" game. I was down 2 going into 17 and won 17 and 18 bringing the match to even. We halved the first extra hole and I birdied the 20th to win."* Ryan Bender, Louisville, Ky. defeated Mia Seeman, Milton, Wis. Going 19 holes to win was Morgan Brown, Lafayette, Ind. over Emma Carpenter, DeKalb, Ill. Loran Skibba, Verona Wis. defeated Speedy Kent, Mequon, Wis. 2 & 1. Skibba said, *"I really enjoyed playing with my good friend Speedy, we didn't have our best stuff but it turned out to be a pretty competitive match."*

Although 14-year-old Alexandra Voight-Shelley from State College, Pa. lost her match to Ashley Kulka, Beaver Dam, Wis. 4 & 3 today, she said, *“I really had fun today, I enjoyed the whole tournament because you can play stroke and match play.”* Her grandfather taught her how to play golf, her great grandfather was a PGA Pro for many years at Sunningdale Country Club in New York. She has won the Pennsylvania State Championship for girls under 15 and recently won the Scott Roberson Invitation in Roanoke, Va. for girls 14 and under. She is traveling back to Pennsylvania with her father and grandfather, but first stopping to check out the University of Wisconsin.

When the WWGA Junior was first held in 1920 it was a two-day medal play tournament. Celebrating its 90th anniversary this year, some notable past winners include: Carol Mann, JoAnne Gunderson Carner, Carol Sorenson, Patricia Lesser, Joanne Pacillo, Grace Park, 3-time winner Nancy Lopez, 3-time winner Candy Hannemann, Cristie Kerr, Candie Kung to mention just a few.

The tournament is played at scratch with a 36-hole stroke play qualifying round. The low 32 qualifiers constitute the Championship Flight with the final round being 18 holes. The L.B. Icely Cup is awarded to the Champion. Mr. Icely donated the trophy in the 1920s when he was President of the Wilson Sporting Goods Company. Medals are awarded to the Champion, Finalist and Semifinalists, Flight winners and runners-up.

Match play continues tomorrow with the Championship Flight teeing off at 7:30 a.m. Winners of the morning round will advance to the Quarterfinals and play in the afternoon starting at 1:00 p.m. Other flights will play their semi-finals (or finals) with finals on Friday morning. Championship Flight semi-finals will be held on Friday morning with the 18-hole final match teeing off at 1:00 p.m.

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For more information:

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