

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brentwood, Tenn., June 11, 2015 ... The Women's Western Golf Association's 115th National Amateur Championship will be held at Nashville Golf & Athletic Club, Brentwood, Tenn. from June 15-20.

When the tournament gets underway, it will be the second time this Championship has been held at Nashville Golf & Athletic Club. The 87th Championship (held in 1987) had a strong field that included Nashville player **Sarah LeBrun Ingram**. **Kathleen McCarthy** from Fresno, Calif. claimed the title. At that time, the tournament had an 18-hole qualifier*; McCarthy shot a **67, which to this day remains the course record for women**, to claim Medalist honors and went on to win the tournament defeating **Sarah DeKraay**. (*In 1992, the qualifier was changed to a two-day 36-hole qualifier.)

Searching for the 1987 Champion proved to be unsuccessful, however, the Finalist (Runner-up), Sarah DeKraay, now an attorney in Madison, Wisc., was located and gave this statement:

“Thank you for contacting me regarding the tournament. The Women's Western golf tournament was a highlight of my amateur career. Not only was the course an amazing test of golf and extremely challenging, but it was well organized and professional. The course was in fabulous shape and I remember the greens as being undulating, fast and tricky. I had a wonderful experience at the event and whenever I think back to my amateur days as a collegiate golfer, I immediately recall this event. The membership at the club was terrific and supportive. I was lucky enough to get to stay in private housing with a really nice couple that went out of their way to make my experience memorable. The tournament is lucky to have such a terrific venue.” She continued, “The final match went 36 holes. Kathleen (McCarthy) was 1-up going into the 36th hole – she made par on the last hole to my bogey – overall, it was a great match!”

Almost 28 years later, the WWGA Championship will once again have an exceptional field; players will experience the breath-taking panoramic views of Nashville Golf & Athletic Club's countryside and the picturesque rolling hills of Tennessee. The golf course will be set at par 36-36=72, 6073 yards, Rating/Slope: 77.5/136

In 1991, **Sarah LeBrun Ingram** who resides in Nashville won this Championship when it was held at Firethorn Golf Club in Lincoln, Neb.; Finalist that year was **Vickie Goetz (Ackerman)** who later played on the LPGA Tour. Ingram was a Director on the WWGA Board for a number of years; she will be serving as the Honorary Tournament Chairman and Guest Speaker at the Players Welcome Dinner on Sunday evening.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

Two-day stroke play qualifier beginning on Monday, June 15. Pairings will be listed on the WWGA website: www.wwga.org on Sunday afternoon, June 14. **Monday Pairings:** groups of three players with tee times beginning at 6:40 a.m., 10-minute intervals; **Tuesday, June 16 pairings** reversed, i.e., players teeing off early Monday will have late tee times on Tuesday.

Match Play will begin on Wednesday, June 17 with the low 64 qualifiers going into Championship Flight – all other players will be placed into Flights of 16. **Second Round Match Play Thursday, June 18** (*no consolation Flights*) with **Third Round Match Play Thursday afternoon** for Championship Flight only.

Quarterfinals – Championship Flight Friday a.m. June 19; all other Flights Semifinals. **Friday afternoon – Championship Flight Semifinals;** all other Flights Finals. **Championship Finals – 36 holes on Saturday, June 20.** There will be a one-half to an hour break in-between morning and afternoon matches. Awards ceremony immediately following completion of match.

Results: During the tournament, daily press releases, pairings and results will be posted on the WWGA website as well as updates on WWGA's Facebook page. Please "like" the WWGA Facebook.

Field: Consists of the top-ranked players from 31 states and five countries including Canada, Mexico, Thailand, Japan and the Philippines. There are 11 players entered from the State of Tennessee.

About the WWGA ... The WWGA was founded in 1901 under the sponsorship of the Western Golf Association and is one of the oldest women's golf organizations in the United States; it is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization established under guidelines set by the Internal Revenue Service. All the dedicated Directors are volunteers paying all their own travel expenses. In June of 2011, the WWGA once again partnered with the Western Golf Association.

Two tournaments held annually ... The Amateur Championship has been held, without interruption, since 1901, not even two world wars kept it from being played! The Junior Championship was first held in 1920; this tournament has been held annually with the exception of a few years during WWII. This year's Junior will be held at Hope Valley Country Club in Durham, N.C. in mid-July.

Former WWGA Tournaments ... The following tournaments were conducted by WWGA Directors, all on a volunteer basis, to this day there has never been a paid staff.

The Derby Medal Invitation was inaugurated in 1929 and continued through 1941. This was a 54-hole medal play tournament with names like Patty Berg and Marion Miley claiming the championship title. In 1930 the **Women's Western Open** was established and held through 1967; the Open was considered a Major Championship in Women's Professional Golf with many of the legends of golf winning the tournament including Patty Berg, Louise Suggs, Babe Didrikson Zaharias, Betsy Rawls, Betty Jameson, Mickey Wright, Carol Mann and Kathy Whitworth. In 1979 the WWGA introduced its **Senior Championship** which was held until 2007; **Alice Dye**, a WWGA Director since 1954 and a past President of the American Society of Golf Course Architects won that Championship five times; the tournament is currently on hiatus.

The above mentioned tournaments were all conducted by WWGA Directors; these farsighted pioneers in women's golf were and to this day, committed to the game.

Last year's Amateur Champion, **Mika Lee** from Beverly Hills, Calif., who was all of 15 years old when she won, will be back to defend her title; the 2014 Finalist **Cammie Gray** from Northport, Ala. along with a number of "Who's Who" in women's amateur golf will be competing for bragging rights and to hoist the coveted W. A. Alexander Cup trophy that proudly displays 114 past champions including Patty Berg, Nancy Lopez, Louis Suggs, Pat Lesser, Dot Germain, Betty Jameson, Joanne Gunderson Carner, Catherine LaCoste, Moira Dunn, Amy Benz, Stacy Lewis, Brittany Lang, Grace Park, Beth Daniel and Cristie Kerr, to mention just a few.

Women's Western Golf Foundation ... Forty-four years ago the Foundation was formed as an outgrowth of the WWGA. The Foundation has granted in excess of \$3.5 million to more than 600 scholars representing 45 states and over two dozen collegiate women's golf programs. Its primary source of income is contributions from golf clubs and groups participating in the Annual Foundation Scholarship Day, WWGA Directors and Trustees, golf associations, individual friends of golf and benefactors.

Spectators are welcome and as always with top-ranked amateur events, admission is free.

For more information:

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