

Women's Western Golf Association
116th National Amateur Championship
Dayton Country Club, Dayton, Ohio
June 20-25, 2016

For Immediate Release
June 24, 2016

Mikhaela Fortuna to face Jillian Hollis in the WWGA Amateur Final

In the first Championship flight match this morning, Lydia Gumm, the Finalist from last year's WWGA 115th National Amateur Championship, faced 15 year old Mikhaela Fortuna, a resident of Dasmariñas City, The Philippines. Fortuna started out well in the match and had a three up lead after 13 holes. Gumm fought back to win #14, #15, #16, and #17 to take a one up lead into #18. Fortuna won the 18th hole and the match went into extra holes. Both hit great shots but Fortuna won the 22nd hole to take the match.

In other morning matches, Sophia Schubert, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, defeated Maddie Szeryk, London, Ontario, Canada, 1 up; Jillian Hollis, Rocky River, Ohio, defeated Grace St-Germain, Orleans, Ontario, 2 up; and Kelly Whaley, Farmington, Connecticut, def. August Kim, St. Augustine, Florida, 3 & 2. A highlight of this round was Kim's Hole-in-One on the 128 yard 7th hole. That was the sixth Hole-In-One since Monday at this tournament.

The First match of the afternoon session was Mikhaela Fortuna versus Sophia Schubert. Schubert won the first hole and Fortuna won the fifth hole to even the score. The match remained all square until the 10th hole when Schubert made a bogey and Fortuna took control from there to take the match at 3&2.

The Second match of the afternoon put together Jillian Hollis and Kelly Whaley. Both of their mothers played college golf in the 1980's. Jillian's mother was Sharon Minnich who played at both North Carolina State University and Ohio State University and Kelly's mother was Suzy McGuire who played at the University of North Carolina where Kelly will a Sophomore this fall.

Hollis and Whaley have become great friends through Junior Golf events and are even staying together in local housing this week. They requested it and were placed with David and Joanne Cronin whose daughter Ellie also participated in this event. Talking with them before their match they seemed kind of loose about the whole thing. The mood changed once the first ball was hit. Whaley took an early lead when she eagled the 4th hole. In a tightly contested match where many holes ended up all square, Jillian Hollis nailed her drive on the Par 3 2nd Hole to win the match on the 20th hole.

The Championship's Final Match to determine the winner will be played on Saturday. The first 18-hole round will be begin at 7:30 am. There will be an approximately 45 minute break between the first and second 18 hole rounds. The public is invited to attend at no charge.

In Other Flight finals, Olivia Cason, Owensboro, Kentucky, defeated Kaeli Jones, Sumterville, Florida, 2 & 1 in the First Flight; Louise Oxner, Greenville, South Carolina, defeated Cassandra Pantellas, Canton, Ohio, 4 & 3 in the Second Flight; Ciara Rattana, Western Springs, Illinois defeated Shannon Gramley, Sharon, Pennsylvania, 2 Up in the Third Flight; Maddy Rayner, Southlake, Texas defeated Shannon McKew, Cockeysville, Maryland, 5&4 in the Fourth Flight; and Taby Robinson, Dublin, Ohio defeated Kelly Nielsen, Kent, Ohio, 1 up, in the Fifth Flight. Something to note is that Cason, Oxner and Gramley are all teammates for the University of Louisville.

As we near the end of a wonderful week in Dayton, we want to thank the members and staff of Dayton Country Club. We thank the members of giving up their golf course for us to stage this event. We want to thank Manager Jeff Grant and Head Golf Professional Rob Karnes and all the terrific employees and staff that took care of us and all the contestants this week. The weather gods also treated us well.

The Women's Western Golf Association's 117th National Amateur Championship will be held at River Forest Country Club, Elmhurst, Illinois, June 12-17, 2017. We look forward to seeing many of this year's contestants again next year.

For more information about the Women's Western Golf Association and the Women's Western Golf Foundation, please visit our website at www.WWGA.org.