

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Madison, Wis. (July 14, 2016) ... The weather in the morning matches was slightly cooler than it has been over the last three days but as the winds started picking up, it was going to make the matches more challenging as Blackhawk Country Club requires precision making shots.

The first pairing in the Championship Flight found Arushi Singh, the no. 16 seed from Naperville, Ill. eliminating the tournament stroke-play medalist Shannon Gould, O'Fallon, Mo. by a 4 & 3 margin. Singh stated, *"I got off to a good start after winning the first hole, it got my rhythm going. We were back and forth on the front side but at the end of nine I was 4 up. The first three holes on the back side I was down to 2 up and knew the next three holes I would have to pick it up. I missed a birdie putt on 13 but on 14 and 15 had good drives, my second shots were on the green. It was a good match."*

The no. 9 seed Nicole Ciskowski, Barrington, Ill., defeated the no. 25 seed Abbey Pierce, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. 5 & 4. Ciskowski's sister Heather won this tournament when it was held in 2013. Two local area players, Alexis Thomas, Middleton, Wis. and Taylor McCorkle, Oregon, Wis. saw Thomas winning the match 1 up. Kate Lillie, St. Charles, Ill. who was the winner of the 2015 Chick Evans Junior Amateur and runner-up at the Golfweek Junior at Houston Woods last year, defeated Megan Watkins, Frankenmuth, Mich. 6 & 4. Watkins, who purposely wears mismatched socks, won the 2014 and 2015 Big "I" qualifiers. *(The Big "I" is the third oldest junior event in the U.S.; over 200 Independent Insurance Agents across the U.S. donate time and money to host local and state qualifiers.)*

The no. 2 seed Maddie Hawkins, Asbury, Ia. defeated no.18 seed Ryan Bender, Louisville, Ky. 1 up. Hawkins, who won the John Deere Classic Junior Open this year also has a "socks story", she wears two left socks on purpose because she believes it will help her play better. Penelope Tir, Winnetka, Ill. who won the Junior Golfweek tournament at Vanderbilt in 2015, won her match with Morgan Brown, Lafayette, Ind. 3 & 1. In 2015, Brown won the Central Indiana Masters as well as the Houston Woods Golfweek tournament.

It took 20 holes for left-handed player Loren Skibba, Verona, Wis. who will be attending Northern Arizona University in the fall to defeat CheyAnn Knudsen, Milton, Wis. Knudsen,

who will be attending Carthage College in the fall; she was 4 up after nine and on the back nine went 5 up on the 11th hole. She lost the 12th and 13th holes and halved 14 and 15. Skibba started her charge and won 16, 17 and 18 to bring the match back to all square. They both parred the first extra hole and on the 20th hole, both rolled their putts past the hole, Knudsen's putt lipped out and Skibba won the match.

Abby Kiefer, Dublin, Ohio who won the Golfweek at Miami tournament and was runner-up at the Golfweek University of Kentucky tournament in 2015, defeated Mikayla Hauck, Cottage Grove, Wis. 3 & 2. Hauck, who will start her freshman year at Eastern Kentucky University in the fall, won the Badger Conference tournament in 2014 and 2015; she was the Wisconsin PGA Junior Player of the Year in 2014 and 2015.

In the afternoon quarterfinals, Ciskowski defeated Singh 1 up; Kate Lillie defeated Alexis Thomas; Tir defeated Hawkins 4 & 2 and Skibba defeated Kiefer 4 & 3.

Other matches played Thursday included First Flight: Courtney Matschke, Franklin Wis. def. Melissa Biesmann, Fitchburg, Wis. 3 & 1. Isabella Abdullah, Hinsdale, Ill. defeated Lorenza Martinez, Menomonee Falls, Wis. In the afternoon semi-finals Matschke defeated Abdullah 4 & 3, they will play their final match on Friday at 7:50 a.m.

Moyea Russell, Lake Orion, Mich. won her match with Taitum Beck, Waterford, Wis. 8 & 7. Kayla Benge, Plainfield, Ind. defeated Ashley Kulka, Beaver Dam, Wis. 1 up but lost her match in the afternoon to Russell 2 & 1.

Second Flight: It was Taylor Hakala, Milton, Wis. over Ally Ross, West Lafayette, Ind. 4 & 2; Abigail Bitto, Bolingbrook, Ill. def. Raelyn Spears, Plymouth, Minn. 4 & 3; in the afternoon match Hakala defeated Bitto 4 & 3. Kylie Greulich, Huron, Ohio def. Julia Alhemoud, Kuwait City, Kuwait 2 up and Sarah Lewis, Chesterfield, Mo. won 1 up over Sophia Lau, Glenview, Ill. In the afternoon round, Greulich defeated Lewis.

Third Flight played their semifinal matches that included: Cailey Rooker, St. Joseph, Mich. who was the winner defeating Faith Krause, Franklin, Wis. 1 up. Fourth Flight was also playing their semifinals: Jordann Handy, Oshkosh, Wis. was the winner defeating Erin Evans, Carmel, Ind. 2 up.

The Championship semi-final matches will start at 7:30 on Friday. The 18-hole final will take place at 1:00 p.m. For all results visit the WWGA website: www.wwga.org