

Defending champion takes first-round lead



The 18-hole division played Glen Garden Golf & Country Club in Monday's first round of the FWJGA's Girls City Junior Golf Championship.



The 9-hole division played the renovated Rolling Hills Country Club. It was the first time the course has been on the schedule.

Lautensack's 73 leads by one

Erica Lautensack of Arlington won the FWJGA's Girls City Junior Golf Championship by 15 shots last year and took the first step to become a repeat winner after opening with a one-over par 73 at Glen Garden Golf & Country Club.

Only one shot behind Erica are Kyong Kim, 16, of Crowley and Tarin Leong, 16, of Arlington. Last year's runner-up Alex Schies, 18, opened with a 78 and is tied with Jacey Patton, 18, of Fort Worth. Trinity King, a 12-year-old from Arlington, put herself into contention with a 76, and Mary Katherine Ingram, 17, of Aledo finished with a 77.

The low 30 scores from Monday's round will go to Ridglea Country Club's North Course for the second round. After 36 holes, the division will be divided into the Championship and First flights.

The nine-hole division opened at the newly-renovated Rolling Hills Country Club. That division has been divided into Championship, First, Second and Third flights and will play Tuesday at Sycamore Creek G.C., which should present a more forgiving course than the more challenging Rolling Hills.

Erica said she played really well though she did have several up-and-downs. Fortunately, she has been working hard on her short game. "I made a lot of 4- to 5-foot putts after chips," she said.

The field had a shotgun start, and with almost two groups on each hole, it made for a relatively long round, though Erica said it didn't affect her score. "It was more annoying than anything."

A good up-and-down for birdie on the par-5 eighth hole helped soothe the annoyance, though. Erica said she cut the corner of the dogleg left hole too much and the ball ended up in "junk." She punched her next shot to the fairway, then nailed an 8-iron to within four feet. It was her second birdie on the front to help offset three bogeys, two of which came on her first two holes. She birdied both par-5 holes on the back, but bogeyed the 14th and 18th for an even-par 34.

"After winning last year and playing well today gives me a lot of confidence," she said. She's also looking forward to playing Ridglea C.C. on Tuesday. She shot 75 there last year after opening with a 70 at Glen Garden.

Kyong Kim was third last year and rallied from a front-nine 41 at Glen Garden to card her 76. She shot a 78 last year at Ridglea, and did Alexandra Schies. Tarin Leong, who opened last year with a 78, stumbled to an 86 at Ridglea and couldn't make enough corrections in the final round at River Crest C.C., where she shot an 87, leaving her in last place in the Championship Flight.

The 12-year-old Trinity King is someone the front runners might keep an eye on. Trinity won the putting contest for 12-13 girls at the National Drive, Chip and Putt contest and was third in the long drive competition at Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia in April. She was among the 44 girls who qualified for the event.

Last year, she made a big impact when she pulled off a victory in the Arlington Women's Championship after opening with a 73 at Tierra Verde. She'll be in eighth grade this year at Boles Junior High.