

## Lautensack cruises again to win FWJGA Girls City Junior Golf Championship



Holly Haas, left, who won the 1985 FWJGA Girls City Junior Golf Championship, presents the 2014 trophy to Erica Lautensack, 18, of Arlington. The permanent girls trophy is at left. This was Erica's second consecutive year to win the title, the first back-to-back winner since Stephanie Dukes did it in 1998-99.



Defending champion Erica Lautensack entered Wednesday's final round of the FWJGA Girls City Junior Golf Championship with a five-shot lead. Though that appeared safe, it must be noted that last week Collin Clark stepped into the final round of the boys championship with a seven-shot lead and had to hang on for a one-shot victory at Colonial C.C.

But Erica, who won by 15 shots last year, showed early that she wasn't going to let the title slip out of her grasp as she birdied the first two holes at River Crest C.C. With no one making a serious challenge, Erica cruised to a 13-shot victory after posting an even-par 70 over the relatively short but tight 6,047-yard course played from the White tees. She finished with a 54-hole total of 220 after rounds of 73 at Glen Garden G. & C.C. and 77 at Ridglea C.C.'s North Course.

It seemed appropriate that Erica birdied the 18th hole from about two-three feet (pictured), which helped her atone for the bogey she took there last year.

Moving into second, thanks to her 74, was Alexandra Batista of Trophy Club. For Alexandra, it was a nice present for her 16th birthday, which she was going to celebrate with friends at a movie.

Trinity King, a 12-year-old who had held the second-place spot entering the round, couldn't continue her impressive play and slipped to an 87 and tied for fourth with Anna Takahashi, a 13-year-old from Grapevine. Anna birdied the last hole for an 82, which helped take some of the sting out of a triple-bogey and double-bogey. These two young players should be in the title chase for at least five more years.

Trinity, of Arlington, said she began losing focus after double-bogeys on holes No. 6 and 7, a bogey on 8 and a triple-bogey 8 on No. 9. "I didn't regain my focus for another eight or nine holes," she said with a smile. But she had an impressive journey with rounds of 76 and 79 to push into contention.

Kyong Kim, 16, of Crowley was two shots behind entering the final round but struggled to an 8-over 43 on the front when she carded a double-bogey and triple bogey. She rallied on the back for a 37 for an 80 to finish third at 236.

Erica said she enjoyed her second day of proficient tee-to-green play and hit 14 greens in regulation. And it was a satisfying end to her final year of eligibility as she heads off the Stephen F. Austin to play golf and study in its acclaimed environmental science program. "It feels good to win again," she said, noting it's a special tournament because of the variety of great courses they get to play.

She especially enjoyed the birdie three on the final hole when she dropped an 8-iron shot to within two feet. "I wanted that to finish even par," she said.

As far as her challengers failing to make a charge, it didn't affect her play, she said. "I just focused on what I was doing," she said.

Alexandra Batista said she got off to a shaky start by carding bogeys on three of the first five holes, added another bogey and a double-bogey for a 40 on the front. It was sort of deja vu moment for her, saying she didn't get off to a good start last year, either. But she rallied on the back last year and shot a 76 and tied for seventh. She figured if she had rallied once, she could do it again and she indeed did, firing a one-under 34 on the back for her 74.

In the First Flight, which also finished at River Crest, Taylor Brookshire, 17, of Aledo won the title in a scorecard playoff with Amy Cox, 18, of Grapevine. Taylor shot a final-round 84 and Amy an 81 to tie at 252. The Second Flight winner was 14-year-old Athisha Piyapanee of Southlake, who shot an 81 at Rockwood G.C. from the Red tees. She had posted a 73 at Diamond Oaks in the second round.

In the Third Flight, Chelsea Henshaw, 18, of Arlington won with a 262 total. Other flight winners were Jessica Simants, 15 of Azle (Fourth); Megan Erwin, 16, of Mansfield (Fifth); Jessica McCue, 15 of Fort Worth (Sixth); and Jessica Cross, 14, of Mansfield (Seventh).

In the Nine-Hole Division, Madison Davis, 13, of Justin won the Championship Flight after a scorecard playoff with Anne Moon, 13, of Fort Worth after both had tied at 142. The nine-hole players finished at Sycamore Creek G.C. Sally Sohn, 14, of Flower Mound won the First Flight; Bryce George, 13, of Grand Prairie won the Second Flight; and Kaylee Banister, 13, of Arlington won the Third Flight.

The tournament began with a record 165 registered entries.