



Erica Lautensack



Trinity King

## Lautensack stretches lead despite putting woes that led to 77

Fortunately for defending champion Erica Lautensack most of her challengers had as many if not more problems with the fast Ridgley Country Club North Course's greens than she did. But not by much.

"I had five three-putts and 38 (total) putts," Erica, 18, said after she finished with a five-over par 77 from the White tees (6,097 yards) on a sunny but cooler day in the second round of the FWJGA's Girls City Junior Golf Championship. She owns a 150 36-hole total, and the Arlington High graduate will enter Wednesday's final round at River Crest C.C. with a five-shot lead over 12-year-old Trinity King of Arlington, who shot a 79. Erica said she missed about five good chances for birdie and had only two, which helped offset five bogeys and a double-bogey.

The 18-hole girls who didn't make the cut to play at River Crest in Division I competed at Diamond Oaks C.C. on Tuesday will play their final rounds at Rockwood G.C. The nine-hole girls will finish at Sycamore Creek G.C. The awards ceremonies will be at the Ben Hogan Learning Center at Rockwood and Holly Haas, a former champion (1985) and golf instructor at Leonard Golf Links, will present the trophies.

For Trinity, this is the first time she has reached the Championship Flight after three previous years of competing, starting in a nine-hole division, advancing to the Third Flight and last year playing in the Second Flight, where she finished fifth. Trinity said she believed she would be the "short-knocker" in



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the Championship Flight, but discovered she would stay up with most of the competitors with her drives.

Kyong Kim, 16, of Crowley was tied for second, one shot behind, heading into the day, but she plopped two balls in the water on the par-5 ninth that resulted in an eight and led to a 44 on the front nine. She rebounded, though, with a 38 for an 82 and trails Trinity by a shot at 156.



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Tarin Leong, 16, of Arlington, who had opened with a 74 at Glen Garden G. & C.C. along with Kyong, had even more trouble and came in with an 88, dropping her back to 162. Last year's runner-up Alexandra Schies couldn't make a move after her opening 78 and her putting problems were reflected by a four-putt green en route to an 83.



Kyong Kim

Erica remained upbeat after her round, which included a missed two-foot downhill putt, because her tee-to-green play was improved over her opening round. "I played really well from tee to green. I didn't miss a drive," she said. "But these were really fast greens and they broke more than I thought."

Even her recent extra short-game practice couldn't help her solve the greens, but she's looking forward to the shorter but tighter River Crest C.C., where she hopes the greens will be somewhat slower.

Kyong had a shaky start as she carded five bogeys and one birdie in the first eight holes, and then she stumbled to her eight on the ninth after she hit her second shot in water hazard and followed that with another shot in the water. "But I got over it," she said of her frustration as she posted her 38 on the back despite hitting her tee shot in the water on the par-4 12th. She isn't counting herself out of the title hunt, but said, "I'll need to be more consistent."

Trinity liked not only her playing, but also the way she handled her "attitude." She had a tendency to "get down on myself" after a bad shot, but she was able to shake it off by the next shot. She might have had an advantage on the greens because she putted the Augusta National greens (site of the Masters) in April when she competed in the National Long Drive, Chip and Putt contest, where she won her 12-13 age division in putting. Augusta's greens are noted for their speed and undulations.

Though she hadn't played Ridglea, she did scope it out using Google Earth. She hasn't played River Crest, either, but has driven the course in a cart so she at least knows the layout. Trinity had just returned from San Antonio where she competed in the Texas-Mexico competition that pitted 50 player teams against each other. She lost in the alternate-shot and best-ball competition, but won her individual match 2-1 after sinking a 30-foot birdie putt on the 17th.

The players who didn't make the cut to play in Division I at Ridglea went to Diamond Oaks Country Club and were divided into flights, beginning with the Second. Carding the lowest score at Diamond

Oaks was Athisha Piyapanee, 14, from Southlake with a 73 from the Red tees, giving her a 159 36-hole total and a three-shot lead over Quinn Barber, 12, of Grapevine, who shot a 75.