

Powers sails to six-shot victory; Massey shots 67 to finish second



Holding an eight-shot lead going into the final round of the FWJGA Boys City Junior Golf Championship gave Brendan Powers, 16, of Mansfield, a fairly comfortable feeling. Then when he birdied three of the first six holes at Colonial Country Club, the Championship trophy was pretty much in the bag.

However, Steven Brandon Massey, 16, of Fort Worth tried his best to put some pressure on Powers when he carded three birdies on the front nine for a 33 while Powers finished the front with a bogey and double bogey for a 36. Massey, though, had started the final round 10 shots behind after a 77 at Shady Oaks, but his three-under par 67 at Colonial did cut the final gap to six shots. Powers shot a final-round one-over par 71 and finished the four-day tournament with a 9-under 275 total. Massey earned the runner-up trophy with a 281. His finish was quite a contrast from last year when he shot an 83 at Colonial to finish 15th.

(Pictured from left are Powers, Massey and Marty Leonard, daughter of tournament founder Marvin Leonard. Below, Powers is presented the Marvin Leonard permanent trophy, which stays at the Ben Hogan Learning Center at Rockwood.)



Kyle Engelbert, 16, of Fort Worth, who was in second and eight shots behind entering the final round, got off to a rocky start with a six-over 42 on the front nine and finished with an 81 and 293 total and a third-place finish.

Powers posted rounds of 69 at Walnut Creek Pecan, 70 at Ridglea Country Club's Championship (South) Course and 65 at Shady Oaks Country Club. He became the third Mansfield player to win the tournament.

Powers said this might have been his best tournament and he credits much of his improvement since 2015 with his added length of the tee. "I'm just stronger now," he said. For comparison, he said Colonial played long for him in 2015 when he shot 81 and finished tied for 10th. He had led the tournament after the first round with a 69 at Rockwood. He didn't play last year because of back problems.

The Championship, First, Second and Third flights finished at Colonial and played the Blue tees (6,837 yards)..

Winning the First Flight was Caleb Carson, 17, of Saginaw, whose 76 gave him a 303 total to pass Suh Andrew, 15, who shot an 82, by two shots. James Demarque, 18, of Mansfield sailed to an eight-shot victory in the Second Flight after a final-round 73 and 295 total. Robby Evans, 18, of Flower Mound finished with a 78 and 303 to take the runner-up trophy.

Michael Gower, 16, of Keller took home the Third Flight winner's trophy after a 79 and 315 total. Doak Neill, 14, of Aledo earned the runner-up trophy after a 77 and 323.

The Fourth through Eighth flights moved to Sycamore Creek G.C. for the final day and played nine holes to determine the winners and runners-up in each flight.

Ben Huxtable, 16, of Willow Park shot a 38 to win the Fourth Flight by five shots with a four-day 275 total. Graham Folse, 15, of Keller had the day's lowest round, 34, and tied for second with Cole Vigil, 18, of Fort Worth. Folse won a scorecard playoff.

In the Fifth Flight, Blake Bell, 16, of Arlington carded a 37 and won with a 288 total. Winning a scorecard playoff for second was Jose Quintana, 16, of Mansfield. He and Jagr Clift, 17, of Arlington had tied with 294 totals. (Note: at the awards ceremony, a scoring mix up had Rishi Chebrola, 15, of Flower Mound winning the playoff).

The Sixth Flight was won by Seth Milner, 17, of Arlington, who shot a 40 for a 310 total, a shot in front of Spencer Daniel, 16, of Burleson and Ryan Smith, 14, of Mansfield. Daniel won the runner-up trophy after a scorecard playoff.

Tre Wright, 14, of Fort Worth shot a 37 for a 221 total to win the Seventh Flight by four shots over John Bowman, 17, of Burleson who carded a 39. And Heston Nichol, 15, of Fort Worth won the Eighth Flight with a final-round 46 and 247 total, four shots in front of Brady Holt, 14, of Azle.

The 11-13 boys finished match play at Sycamore Creek and Jackson Bobo, 13, of Fort Worth won the Championship by edging Sloan Henggeler, 13, of Fort Worth 2-1 for the nine holes. Bobo's trophy will be added to the several he has won in Northern Texas PGA Junior events. Henggeler also has an impressive NTPGA record, and has played in the Dean Deluca Colonial Pro-Am at Colonial the past two years. Winning the First Flight was Luke Wiertzema, 13, of Saginaw, nipping 9-year-old Steven Sugues of Fort Worth, 1 up. Sugues, who won the 8-10 division two years ago, was given permission to play in this division last year because of his advanced skill level. Erik Ramos, 13, of Mansfield won the Second Flight with a 3-2 victory over Luke Saunders, 11, of Aledo. Evan Jenkins, 10, of Mansfield defeated Hudson McReynolds, 13, of Mansfield 4-3 to win the Third Flight, and Robert Matteson, 11, of Aledo, edged Matthew Vasquez, 11, of Fort Worth 1 up, to earn the Fourth Flight title.

Soloman Wiertzema, 10 of Saginaw held on to win the 8-10-year-old six-hole division by carding a 21 in Thursday's final round at River's Edge. Logan Bettinger, 10, of Fort Worth rallied for a 19, but came up two shots short and tied with Jack Vetere, 9, of Mansfield for second. Bettinger won the runner-up trophy after a scorecard playoff. Wiertzema, who has had second and third place finishes on the Fort Worth Junior Golf Tour and NTPGA events, had a three-day 81 total after rounds of 20-21-19-21.

In the First Flight, Soren Harris, 10, of Trophy Club managed to win by a shot after scoring a 23 to top third-round leader Will Johnson, 8, of Cleburne. Harris finished with a 96 four-day total.

Haden Greer, 10, of Fort Worth won the Second Flight, shooting a final-round 22 for a 100 total and 22 shots in front of Alex Hall, 9, of Hudson Oaks.