

Mansfield's Powers takes eight-shot lead heading to final round at Colonial

[Walnut Creek photos](#), [Pecan Valley](#)

[Diamond Oaks photos](#), [Meadowbrook photos](#),

[River's Edge, Monday](#), [Mansfield National](#), [Shady Oaks](#)



Brendan Powers of Mansfield made a big push to winning the FWJGA Boys City Junior Golf Championship by knocking six shots off par at the usually difficult Shady Oaks C.C., and his 65 catapulted him into an eight-shot lead in the 72-hole tournament. Powers (pictured) will lead the field that made the cut into the final round Thursday at Colonial C.C.

Kyle Engelbert, 18, of Fort Worth is trailing the 16-year-old who's trying to become the third Mansfield player to win the tournament. Collin Clark was the second Mansfield player last year. It could be quite a task to catch Powers, who has, among his accomplishments, a victory in an NTPGA event at Tierra Verde and a Legends Junior Tour event in Houston this year. Powers led this tournament in 2015 after the first round when he shot a 69, but he couldn't continue the same pace and finished 10th.

Engelbert, who tied for ninth in the First Flight last year, is at 212 and two shots ahead of Steven Brandon Massey. The 16-year-old Massey of Fort Worth didn't record a birdie en route to a 77 after firing a 66 Tuesday at Ridglea and is at 214.

Chris Berzina, 17, of Fort Worth posted a 77 and is at 218. He tied for second last year and has amassed quite an impressive list of accomplishments, including winning the Mira Vista Junior Club Championship the past years and a two-time MVP at Trinity Valley. He also has a couple of second place finishes on the All American Tour.

Playing from the White Tees, Powers' round including no bogeys over a 6,465-yard course known for its slick greens that have subtle and not so subtle breaks. He posted birdies on the 350-yard par 4 third, the 360-yard par-4 sixth and the 390-yard par-4 ninth to make the turn in 32. On the back, he birdied the 350-yard par-4 10th, the 515-yard par 5 14th and the 140-yard par 3 16th hole. He narrowly missed a birdie putt on the 18th to cap his round. Powers had carded rounds of 71 at Walnut Creek Pecan Course and 66 at Ridglea heading into Wednesday.

Engelbert rallied on the back nine after he made the turn in 37, which included a double-bogey and birdie. He bogeyed the 400-yard par 4 11th, but birdied the 500-yard par 5 15th and the 375-yard par-4 17th for a two-under 34 on the back nine.

Casey Cull, 16, of Mansfield had carded a 67 on Wednesday, but fell back with an 84 at Shady Oaks. (Note: In an early post, we erroneously had Casey with a 74).

The Second and Third flight players who made their respective cuts will join the Championship and First flight players at Colonial. Leading the Second Flight is James Demarque, who shot a 72 at Mira Vista C.C. to take a three-shot lead over Robby Evans, who had a 74 for a 225. In the Third Flight, Michael Gower posted a 76 at Mira Vista to pull ahead by three shots with a 236 total over Collin Benavides, who had a 79 and 239.

In the Seventh Flight, Tre Wright, 14, of Benbrook, whose first round 102 at Diamond Oaks dropped him into Division IV, has taken the lead after the division became 9-hole competition for each of the final three days. He moved in front after a 39 Wednesday at Sycamore Creek, following a 43 Tuesday and has a three-day total of 184, two in front of John Bowman, 17, of Burleson, and William Cantrell, 16, of Arlington. Bowman also shot a 39 and Cantrell a 38.

Heston Nichol, 15, of Fort Worth moved into the Eighth Flight lead after carding a 40 for a 201 total. He's six shots in front of Brady Holt, 14, of Azle, who finished with a 46 and 207 total.

Soloman Wiertzema, 10 of Saginaw jumped into the lead Wednesday in the Championship Flight of the 8-10 division at River's Edge. Wiertzema, who has won second place medals on the Fort Worth Junior Golf Tour and has had third-place finishes in NTPGA Junior competition, shot a 19 on the 6-hole course for a three-day total of 60 to pull in front by three shots over Jack Vetere, 9, of Mansfield and Titus Johnson 10, of Cleburne. Vetere recently won his age group in a NTPGA Junior tournament at Brookhaven C.C. in Dallas.

Second-round leader Logan Bettinger, 10, of Fort Worth, shot a 25 and dropped to fourth place, four behind the leader with a 64 total.

The First Flight continues to be closely contested as Will Johnson, 8, of Cleburne shot a 23 to maintain his shot lead with a 72 total over Soren Harris, 10, of Trophy Club. Greer Haden, 10, of Fort Worth still leads by nine shots after Alex Hall, 9, of Hudson Oaks matched his 26.

They will continue stroke play in Thursday's final round.