

### **Brandon Massey takes two-shot lead after a 69 at Ridglea C.C.**



Brandon Massey, 15, of Fort Worth (pictured left) relied on an improved wedge game to trim two shots off par at Ridglea Country Club's North Course and his 69 pushed him into the second-round lead in the FWJGA Boys City Junior Golf Championship with a 141.

Massey, who shot a first-round one-over par 72 at Rolling Hills C.C., moved into the two-shot lead over 2014 champion Collin Clark, 18, and Brendon Lowrance, 17, both of Mansfield. Both shot 71s over the 6,097-yard course, playing from the White tees.



Thanks to his recent lessons to hone his wedge game, Massey was able to card three birdies, including about a 15-foot putt on the 18th hole, against just a lone bogey on his home course.

Clark also has been taking lessons, trying to become more consistent with his drives. It's also helped, he said, that he changed drivers from what he used last year when he failed to make the cut for the final round at Colonial C.C.

Another shot behind at 144 are Chase Wilson, 17, and Garrison Smith, 16, two others from Mansfield. They matched 73s.

The Championship and First flights head to Shady Oaks C.C. for Wednesday's third round and most of the challengers are familiar with the challenge of dealing with the faster greens at the course where golfing great Ben Hogan practiced and played. Maybe the only one who likes putting on the speeding greens is Clark. "I guess I like putting on concrete," he said.

Massey, who finished fifth last year, said he couldn't get a putt to drop on the front nine, but ran in a 40-footer on the 415-yard par-4 13th that "really got me going." However, he bogeyed the par-3 15th, but curved a shot around a tree that led to a par on the 16th, sank a 4-footer for par on the par-3 17th and then nailed about a 15-footer on 18 for a birdie. "I had a lesson the other day and really have my wedges dialed in," he said.

Regarding Shady Oaks, Massey said if he could shoot about two over, "I'd be happy."

Several other players are within striking distance, including Shane Abdo, 17, of Trophy Club, at 145 after a 71 and tied with Luke Davidson, 17, of Mansfield. Davidson shot a one-under 70 to rally from his first-round 75. Parker McEachern, 18, of Keller is alone at 146. Three others are at 147, including Parker Scaling, 17, of Aledo and who also shot a 70.

Clark (putting in top right photo) credits his new tutor Joe Wuertemberger and a change to a Nike driver for his improved consistency off the tee. "I'm hitting it a lot better (than last year)," he said. "I'm

a lot straighter and hitting it a lot more solid. I can hit it right and left now and that's something I've been working hard on."

Yet, he said both rounds have been kind of "scratchy." Even though he's hitting most of the fairways, sometimes the ball rolls off into the rough. "But if I miss a green, I'm getting it up and down. My putting has been consistent." However, he missed about a five-footer on the 18th for a birdie. "I'd like to win it again. There's been one other Mansfield golfer to win twice, I believe, and I'd like to add my name again."

Lowrance said his play has been up and down this summer and has been unable to avoid a double-bogey in each of his first two rounds, taking a six Tuesday at the par-4 10th. However, he has owned the par-5s, collecting seven birdies the first two rounds, including birdies on all three of the par-5s at Ridglea.

Wilson and Smith played together in the first group and each shot a two-under par on the front nine and four over on the back. "I just couldn't get any birdies on the back," Smith said. He's also not sure what to expect at Shady Oaks. "I've never played it," he said.

Wilson said his play was fairly solid except for a "dumb double-bogey" on the back nine.

The 36-hole cut for the Championship Flight was 154. Those at 155 to 167 moved into the First Flight and also will play at Shady Oaks. The Second and Third Flights will play Wednesday at Meadowbrook G.C.

The boys in the 11-13 division at Sycamore Creek G.C. are down to four in each flight after Tuesday's first round of single-elimination match play. The two winners Wednesday in each flight will play for their respective championships on Thursday.

In the 8-10 division at River's Edge, Mark Neeley, 9, of Mansfield continues to hold the lead in the Championship Flight after shooting a 33 Tuesday on eight holes (two loops of four holes). He's two shots in front of Titus Johnson, 9, of Cleburne and three ahead of Jacob Tice, 9, of Trophy Club. In the First Flight, Soren Harris, 9, of Trophy Club increased his lead after following his first-day 39 with a 37.