

**Three tie for boys championship with 71s
after the first round of 72-hole tournament**



Three players shot even-par 71 at Rolling Hills C.C. Monday to take the first-round lead in the 72-hole FWJGA Boys Junior Golf Championship.

Chase Wilson, 17, Garrison Smith, 16, both of Mansfield, and Blake Bell, 15, of Arlington go into the second round at Ridglea C.C. with a shot lead over four others -- 2014 champion Collin Clark, 18, of Mansfield, Brendon Lowrance, 17, of Mansfield, Chris Berzina, 16, of Fort

Worth, and Brandon Massey, 15, of Fort Worth.

The approximate 120 low scores from the three courses played Monday -- Rolling Hills, Woodhaven C.C., and Meadowbrook G.C. -- form Division I and Division II. The Division I players advance to Ridglea C.C.'s North (Family) Course and Division II play at Diamod Oaks C.C. After the second round the divisions will be flighted, according to their 36-hole totals, and will form Championship, First, Second and Third for the third round. Each flight will be cut to 16 (approximate) for the final round at Colonial. The boys who didn't qualify for either division will be in 24-person flights and begin single-elimination match play and compete Tuesday at either Hawk's Creek or Pecan Valley Hills. The surviving six in each flight will play stroke play the final day.

Smith, who, along with Clark, was on the Mansfield High team that won second place in the 6A state golf tournament. Smith, who started on the 12th hole in the shotgun start, overcame a double-bogey on the par-4 second hole, to card his 71. He also had three bogeys, but offset those with five birdies.



Wilson, who started on the ninth hole, knocked a stroke off par on the front nine with a 35, thanks to three birdies. He slipped to four bogeys on the back, but three more birdies gave him a 36 to earn his 71. Bell, starting on 16, was a little more consistent, picking up one birdie to offset a bogey on the front, and offset two bogeys with two birdies on the back.

Massey, a Monnig Middle School student, tied for fifth last year thanks to a 74 at Colonial on the final day to move up in the standings. Clark hung on to win the 2014 title by a shot after dropping to an 81 at Colonial, including a triple-bogey on the 18th hole. Fortunately he had owned a seven-shot lead entering the final round. Last year, he didn't make the final cut after three rounds. But he's in position to make a run for his second title after his 72.

Four boys shot 38 at Sycamore Creek G.C. in the 11-13-year-old division, including Alex Commons, 11, of Fort Worth; Jackson Naeger, 13, of Keller; Doak Neill, 13, of Aledo. and Collin Ramsey, 12, of Burleson. Tanner Smith, 13, of Aledo and Cameron Beck, 12, of Mansfield were a shot back at 39. They will be among the eight who will compete in the Championship Flight starting Tuesday in single-elimination match play. Among the eight is 8-year-old Steven Suges of Fort Worth, who shot a 41 along with Cameron Shayman, 13, of Arlington. Suges won the 8-10 Championship Flight last year by six shots and his dad requested for him to play in the 11-13 division this year. Suges competes in many tournaments and is an accomplished competitor. Among his accomplishments, his dad said, is placing in the top 30 of more than 100 players at the US Kids World championship at Pinehurst in 2014 and 2015.

All the flights at Sycamore will be single-elimination match play.

Mark Neeley, 9, from Mansfield, shot the lowest score at River's Edge in the 8-10 division. He carded an even-par 28 on the four-hole loop they placed twice. Holes No. 5 and 6 were flooded during rains and weren't ready. Tied at 31 in the Championship Flight are Logan Bettinger, 9, of Fort Worth, Titus Johnson, 9, of Cleburne, and Ryan Brenneman, 10, of Mansfield. Leading the First Flight with a 39 was Soren Harris, 9, of Trophy Club.