

Trinity King takes first round lead in quest to defend the city girls championship



Despite a double bogey 7 on the par-5 fifth hole, Trinity King, 14-year-old at Arlington Martin High School, took the first step to defending her FWJGA City Girls Junior Golf Championship by posting a two-over par 73 at Woodhaven Country Club on a breezy, mostly cloudy Monday (July 11) morning.

Trinity, taller and stronger than she was last year when she won when only 13, will own a two-shot lead as the Division I girls move Tuesday to the Ridglea Country Club North Course for round two of the 54-hole tournament. Kennedy Pedigo, 17, of Fort Worth was a shot in front of Trinity after 12 holes Monday, but also stumbled to a 7, this coming on the 13th hole when she had greenside bunker problems. She lost another shot when Trinity birdied the par-3 14th. Kennedy managed to gain a shot back on the next hole with a 4 and finished the back nine with a 38 to Trinity's 35. Trinity finished with four birdies (No. 8 was playing as a par 4 rather than a par 5 for the girls, lowering the par to 71 from 72). Yet, Trinity overcame a somewhat balky driver and three three putts. Pedigo found the greenside bunker on her second shot on the par-5 13th, blasted over the green into another bunker and by the time she finally finished, it was for a 7.

Tied for third at 78 is last year's third-place finisher Alexandria Batista, 17 of Trophy Club; Kate Tran, 17, another Martin player; Quinn Barber, 17, of Colleyville Heritage; and Malisone Chanthapanya, 13, of Fort Worth. Batista led by a shot after eight holes in last year's final round. Tran, is a teammate of Trinity's on the Martin golf team and joined Trinity in the Region I-6A tournament. Trinity qualified for the state tournament, where she placed 18th. She became the first Martin girl to reach the state championship.

The top 36 girls (90 and below) will be playing Ridglea Country Club North on Tuesday with the first time at 7 a.m. The girls from 91 to 103 will play Pecan Valley River, and the remaining players will form Division III and play nine holes at Sycamore Creek G.C.

In the 9-hole division at Sycamore Creek, JJ Betz, 12, of Keller is making a bid to add the 9-Hole Division Championship Flight first-place trophy to the First Flight trophy she won last year. She shot a 41 to move into a four-shot lead over Micaiah Joubert, 11, of Grand Prairie and five over sister Jax, 11. Micaiah finished third in the 9-hole Championship Flight last year, her finish in different 9-hole flights the past three years.

