

**Kim jumps into lead at 69 at Ridglea C.C. :
defending champ King drops to third**



Kyong Kim (photo right) described her round as a roller-coaster ride at Ridglea Country Club's North Course, but it turned out she wound up on top as she vaulted into a four-stroke lead in the FWJGA's City Girls Junior Golf Championship with a 3-under-par 69 and a 36-hole 146 total. For the first time in five rounds (counting last year's three), defending champion Trinity King was knocked out of the lead. The 14-year-old from Arlington struggled to a 77 and dropped to third at 150. She had led each of the three rounds last year and the first this year when



she opened with a 73 at Woodhaven C.C.

Kennedy Pedigo, 17, from Fort Worth and who was second after an opening 75 at Woodhaven C.C. held down that spot after a 73 at Ridglea for a 185 total. The girls opened the 54-hole tournament at Woodhaven C.C. and the Championship and First flights will finish Wednesday at Shady Oaks C.C. Heading into the final round, Kim said she's feeling good especially after coming back from an erratic round at Woodhaven and likes the Shady Oaks layout.

Kim, 18, of Crowley said almost every time she carded a bogey, she would come back with a birdie on the blustery day as the girls played from the Red tees that gave the girls 5,527 yards to negotiate. Examples of her roller coaster: She carded her second consecutive birdie on the 325-yard par-4 third hole, then bogeyed the par-3 fourth; she bogeyed the par-4 12th, but then reeled off two consecutive birdies before bogeying the par-3 15th. She three-putted (one of three) the par-3 17th for a bogey, but birdied the par-5 18th (photo on left) by getting up and down from a greenside bunker and sinking a five-foot putt. That turned out to be a two-shot swing with King, who Trinity pitched her third shot short of the green, chipped up short and then missed the putt. Pedigo parred to lose a shot. Kim collected seven birdies in all. Not bad considering she hasn't played in a tournament since competing in the 5A state tournament, where she tied for 19th. "I've just been practicing and resting and getting ready for UNT," said Kim, who has committed to the University of North Texas.

Apparently the rest has helped reinvigorated her enthusiasm as she was feeling a little "worn" out during her senior year at Crowley. Also, a new golf coach, Lukas McNair has helped with her iron play the past month. She also also been working out to gain some

strength. In Tuesday's round, she trimmed three shots of King's lead by making the turn at 3-under 34. She got another shot back on the 10th to pull into a tie and gained the lead for good with a bogey on the par-4 12th while Trinity stumbled to a double-bogey.

Meanwhile Pedigo had a solid round but felt she had left a few shots on the course, especially on the back nine. She made the turn at one-under 36, but carded a two-over 37 on the back. She had three birdies and three bogeys for her even-par round.

Aysis Azarcon, 14, shot the second lowest score, a 73 and is alone at 152. The Mansfield Timberview golfer has had a rewarding year, taking medalist honors at the e district and regional tournaments to qualify for the 5A state championship.

The Division I players were split into the Championship and First Flights with the Championship Flight cut at 167. The players who didn't make either flight will join the girls from Pecan Valley River to finish at Diamond Oaks C.C. where they will form the second through fifth flights. Division III girls will continue with 9 holes at Sycamore, as will the regular 9-hole division.

Savannah Battle, 17, who attends Boswell High School, has the lead in the Second Flight after a 78 Tuesday gave her a 169 total. She had opened with a 91 at Woodhaven, went to Pecan Valley River where she shot her 78. In the 9-Hole Division at Sycamore Creek, sisters JJ, 12, and Jax, 11. Betz are battling for the Championship Flight winning trophy with Micaiah Joubert, 11. JJ Betz is leading her sister by four shots after rounds of 41-45. Jax has rounds of 46-44 and Joubert has rounds of 45-46. In the Division III 9-Hole Division Mikayla Drennan, 15, and Kaitlyn Crump, 18, have a shot lead with 149s after 18-hole first rounds.