

**Kennedy Pedigo overcomes two-shot deficit to win
FWJGA City Girls Junior Golf Championship by two shots**

Kennedy Pedigo of Fort Worth continued her consistent play to overcome a two-shot deficit in the final round at Shady Oaks C.C. to win the FWJGA City Girls Junior Golf Championship by posting a two-over par 73 at the difficult Shady Oaks C.C. for a 54-hole 221 total. She passed second-round leader Kyong Kim, 18, of Crowley who carded a hole-in-one on the par-3 175-yard hole but still couldn't make another rally en route to a 77 and a 223 total. (Pedigo is shown with Shady Oaks pro Chad English)

Defending champion Trinity King, 14, of Arlington and who was four shots behind starting the final round fell off the pace with two consecutive double bogeys on the third and fourth par-4 holes and finished with a front-nine 42 to drop eight shots behind Pedigo, who made the turn with a 36. Kim double-bogeyed the par-4 ninth for a 40. King did mount a rally on the back nine and finished with a one-under 34 for a 76 and 226 total.

Almost everyone else fell back as they had difficulties on the fast, undulating greens. Kate Tran, 17, of Arlington and teammate of King at Martin High School, was the only other 12 players in the Championship Flight to break 80 as she finished with a 76 and 239 total.

Pedigo, who is a junior and home schooled, already has verbally committed to SMU after her senior year.



"It means a lot," Pedigo said of the victory. "I've played in it for three years now and my sister played in it last year. There's a lot of history behind the tournament so it's exciting to have (won)."

Pedigo said she was focused on her game and wasn't sure when she gained the lead, but said it "hit her" before teeing off on the last hole. "I knew I had the lead then."

She had jumped ahead by two shots when she birdied the par-4 360-yard ninth while Kim double-bogeyed. She added two more shots to her lead with another birdie on the par-4 355-yard 11th while Kim carded a bogey. However, that lead was quickly slashed when Kim scored her ace on the 12th.

Pedigo built the lead to two shots again on the par-5 14th when she parred and Kim bogeyed. However, she gave a shot back on No. 15, another par 5, when she hit her third shot approach fat and came up short of the green. She couldn't get up and down for her par as her fourth shot went long and she failed to sink the putt. However, she pushed ahead by two again on the par-4 17th after Kim three-putted for a bogey and she parred.

Pedigo said it was kind of "shocking" when Kim scored her ace, but made her realize she needed to keep focusing on her game and not give away any shots. Despite a few troublesome drives, Pedigo said she hit a lot of greens the three days and believe a slight swing change helped to be more consistent. "I shortened by backswing a little. It had a tendency to get to long in tournaments."

It helped, too, she said, that she made a couple of long putts during the tournament.

She also has been able to compete in at least a tournament a week because she's home-schooled. "That helps because I can travel a lot (to play in tournaments)." Among the tournaments ahead for her is the WTGA State Amateur in Dallas July 26-29.

Kim said the double-bogey on nine probably was the turning point, though a three-putt on the par-4 second for a bogey set the tone for her problems on the fast greens. She was boosted from the ace, but had two bogeys after that. She just couldn't get a handle on the greens. "If a putt was downhill or over 15 feet, I probably would three-putt," she said.

Kim hadn't played a tournament this summer heading into this tournament, saying she was "worn out," and won't play another until she goes to the University of North Texas. "I'm done for the summer. I'll just practice," she said.

Though King couldn't find the consistency she needed to repeat, she was encouraged with her one-under par 34 on the back nine. She said look for her to return next year. "Definitely," she said.

In the First Flight, also played at Shady Oaks, Jacqueline Moreno, 16, another Arlington Martin player, won with a 75 and 250 total, three in front of teammate Allison Wade, 18, and Sally Sohn, 16, of Flower Mound. Wade played golf with Mark Brooks, the 1976

boys champion and a PGA Championship winner, in 2015 at Pebble Beach in the Nature Valley First Tee Open.

Savannah Battle, 17, of Boswell won the Second Flight, shooting an 80 at Diamond Oaks C.C. to win by five shots over Stephanie Lee, 14, of Southlake, who closed with a 76. Preslie Sandidge, 18, of Fort Worth won a two-hole playoff against Courtney Gisburne, 16, of Arlington to win the Third Flight. Both had 267 totals. Mackenzie Fee, 15 of Mansfield was the Fourth Flight winner by three shots with a 283, and Haley Moore, 16, of Hurst won the Fifth Flight by five shots with a 289.

In the 9-Hole Division at Sycamore Creek, Jax Betz, 11, beat older sister JJ, 12, for the Championship Flight trophy by shooting a final-round 39, giving her a one-shot victory. The First Flight was won by 12-year-old Maia Dabney of Mansfield. Her final-round 54 won by two shots over Victoria Farkas, 10, of Fort Worth and Catherine Haas-Black, 12, of Benbrook.

Coralie Domergue, 15, of Flower Mound won the Division III First Flight after a playoff against Kaitlyn Crump, 18, of Mansfield. Domergue shot a final-round 45 while Crump finished with a 46 to give them 195 totals. The Division III players played 18 holes Monday but didn't make the cut for Division I or II, and then played nine holes Tuesday and Wednesday. Kristen Webb, 16, of Fort Worth won the Division III Second Flight by four shots with a 46 final round and a 206 total.