

Brendan Powers takes first-round lead

Brendan Powers, 14, of Mansfield shot a 1-under-par 69 Monday at Rockwood Golf Course to take the first-round lead in the four-day FWJGA Boys City Junior Golf Championship. Meanwhile at Riverside Golf Club, defending champion Collin Clark, 17, of Mansfield had his back-nine rally spoiled by a 10 on the par-4 water-guarded 411-yard 18th hole and he finished with an 80. He was three-under par on the back before the disaster. He was six-over after eight holes on the front after starting on the second hole in a shotgun start.

Last year's runner-up Jorge Morillo also ran into trouble at Riverside as an eight on the par-5 512-yard fifth hole led to a 42 on the front. He also carded a bogey on 17 and double-bogey on 18 to finish with a 39 and an 81, which failed to qualify for Division I.

Powers is continuing his good play this summer, highlighted by two victories in the Northern Texas PGA All-American events and a runner-up finish. He played in the Junior Byron Nelson tournament last week in Dallas but missed the cut after rounds of 74-77. His game apparently has been aided by a growth spurt the past two months as his height has stretched about six inches, giving him extra leverage and more distance.



Powers' nearest challengers were Preston Woodard, 18, of Mansfield and Parker Scaling, 16, of Aledo who shot 72s and five players at 73s. Scaling carded a 1-under 34 on the back nine at Riverside. They are among the 61 players who form Division I for Tuesday and they'll play at River Crest Country Club.

The next 57 formed Division II and they'll play at Ridglea Country Club's North Course. After the second round, Division I will be divided into the Championship and First flights and Division II into the Second and Third flights. The golfers who didn't qualify for Division I or II will begin 24-player flights competing in single-elimination match play Tuesday with the Fourth, and Fifth flights going to Hawk's Creek, where they'll have a 10 a.m. shotgun start. The Sixth, Seventh and Eighth flights will go to Pecan Valley Hills G.C. for a 7 a.m. shotgun start.



The 11-12-13-year-old boys played at the nine-hole Sycamore Creek Golf Course. Siddarth Kalisetty, 13, of Flower Mound was low with a 38, followed Tanner Smith, 12, of Fort Worth with a 39. Close behind were Logan Johnson, 13, of Roanoke, who shot a 41, and Jack McClung, 13, of Keller, who carded a 42. The boys at Sycamore will begin single-elimination match play Tuesday.

In the 8-10 division at River's Edge at Rockwood, Wyatt Woolard, 10, of Alvarado (top photo) led the way with a 31 over the 8-hole River's Edge course. Usually, this is a 6-hole course but because two of the holes were not ready because of recent flooding, the juniors played a 4-hole loop twice. Steven Sugés, of Fort Worth and about two months from his eighth birthday but who has played in numerous tournaments (bottom photo), was second after a 32. Next was Saahas Jonnalagedda, 9, of Fort Worth with a 34. Filling out the Championship Flight in that division is Colin Price, 10, of Benbrook. He shot a 36. Mark Neeley led the First Flight with a 40.

The boys will play four days of stroke play. Originally, the format was for match play to begin on the second day, but because of so few players, the format was changed to four days of stroke play.