



NEWSLINKS

A publication of the Arizona Women's Golf Association | Dedicated to promoting golf for women in Arizona



Saki Iida wins AWGA State Amateur Stroke Play Championship

At only 16 years old, Saki Iida is now an AWGA State Champion. In 2010, at 15, she won the Day in Hades Tournament after a four-hole on-course playoff. Now she has won an even more prestigious title, one of the four AWGA State Championships.

Saki, a Junior at Hamilton High School and member of the Hamilton HS Golf Team is also a long-time member of the Junior Golf Association of Arizona. She was the 2009 Girls State Junior Golf Champion and was runner-up in 2010 and 2011. Her list of accomplishments for 2011 demonstrates her skill on the course.

- Winner – 2011 Phoenix City Junior Championship
- Winner – Thunderbird Junior Classic
- 2nd Place – Thunderbird Invitational
- 3rd Place – Willie Low Invitational

Moving up into a more mature and competitive arena, Saki is showing she has the ability, focus and drive to win. It was no small feat to emerge victorious while playing against past Stroke Play Champions, Kerry Postillion (2005-2006), Brittany Penny (2010), Lauren Weaver (2009) and Tui Selvaratnam (2002-2003). Her final score of 214 positioned Saki Iida four strokes ahead of Kerry Postillion, who placed second.

Winning the AWGA State Amateur Stroke Play Championship is a major accomplishment for a young golfer who has had minimal experience competing against seasoned golfers with proven talent. And although the group is growing, teen winners of major events are still a small elite group in the AWGA.

Congratulations, Saki, on becoming the AWGA's newest Stroke Play Champion!

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Defending Champions Judy Miller and Ed Gowan Retain Mixed Stix Title

The Mixed Stix Tournament is celebrated as one of one of the most fun events to play in during the year. This year at Tubac Golf Resort enthusiasm was soaring despite the down-pour the night before. With a field of 72 energized players, the tournament began and ended on a high note.

Judy Miller and Ed Gowan, entered the tournament ready to defend their title. This was their fourth time entering the Mixed Stix as partners and their fourth time emerging as winners! "We play well together," Judy said. "One of us always picks up our game if the other is out of the hole." That's the benefit of teamwork on the course in a partner event.

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Help us reach more women golfers.... when you're finished reading this newsletter, pass it along to a friend.



Judy Miller & Ed Gowan -
2011 Mixed Stix Champions

Miller & Gowan defend Mixed Stix Title

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Judy humbly gives most of the credit for their win to Ed. "Ed is a phenomenal player," she said, "and he is able to come up with super shots when we need them." Judy defines her part as bringing home the pars and being a consistent player. That may be true but history notes that Judy is a champion player in her own right. As a past AWGA Senior Player of the Year, member of the State Team and winner of numerous tournaments, Judy most definitely contributed to their success. When asked if they planned to play as partners again next year, Judy responded jokingly, "If they let us!" She said players were kidding her about being banned since she and Ed are on a winning streak.

Congratulations, Judy and Ed on being four-time champions at the Mixed Stix Tournament.



Colleen Ritter & Tom Bezruczyk
2011 Mixed Stix Overall Net Champions

Oakwood Members Colleen Ritter & Tom Bezruczyk win Overall Net at Mixed Stix

By Mary Ann Souter

Colleen and Tom are not only skilled partners on the course but they are also happy life partners brought together by the game of golf. Having been through difficult times in their personal lives, both Colleen and Tom decided to join the American Singles Golf Association. They quickly found an affinity for one another both on the course and off. Now they play golf at Oakwood and Ironwood as individuals and in the couples league and enjoy a contented life as residents of Sun Lakes.

Colleen and Tom played in the Mixed Stix Tournament in 2010 and came close to winning overall net then. They decided on the spot they would return this year and come home with the trophy. And they did! Describing their game, Colleen said, "We took turns playing well, helping each other along the way. We improved on the second round ending with net scores of 64 and 62." Tom added, "The course was tough but enjoyable. It helped us play our best. We definitely plan to defend our title next year."



Hole # 9 - Anza Course, Tubac Golf Resort



Come out and play in the 15th Annual AWGA Scotch Play Tournament at Rio Rico Resort & Country Club. The event will be held on November 14th and 15th, 2011 in Rio Rico, Arizona on the famed Robert Trent Jones Jr. designed course. Rio Rico Resort & Country Club

is a classic with gently rolling fairways and large greens providing a beautiful yet challenging golf experience for even the most accomplished golfer. Entries for this event open on October 3rd, so sign up at www.awga.org today!



Seven Questions for Hometown Golf Star Cheyenne Woods

By Mary Ann Souter

Cheyenne Woods is a familiar name among Arizona residents with a strong connection between Cheyenne and the AWGA. Not only is she a native of Phoenix and former Xavier Prep player, but her mother, Susan Woods, is the Business Operations Manager for the AWGA. Susan is the behind-the-scenes pillar of strength for Cheyenne. She has been her #1 fan, her encourager, her advocate and has given her the foundation needed to become a champion. And Cheyenne has responded by respecting her mother's guidance and succeeding both academically and in golf at Wake Forest University. She is a polite, warm, enthusiastic and articulate young woman who has earned numerous titles in college golf competition. Among them are:



- Won the 2011 Atlantic Coast Conference Individual Championship by seven shots; Her 5-under 208 total is a school-record at the ACC Championships
- Named the team's Most Valuable Player
- Played in all 11 tournaments and finished with the second-lowest scoring average on the team at 73.9
- Earned NGCA honorable mention All-America honors for the second straight season as well as Golfweek third team honors
- Named to the All-ACC team for the second-straight season

The summer has not kept Cheyenne off the course. She captured medalist honors in the stroke play portion of the U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links Championship in Bandon, OR and advanced to the quarterfinals where she was eliminated. According to the USGA, her third round win on Thursday afternoon matched the second-largest margin of victory in WAPL history.

MAS How did it feel to go into the match play portion of the U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links championship knowing you were No. 1 seed?



Cheyenne and her mom, Susan at the US Women's Public Links Championship at Bandon Dunes, Oregon

CW I was so proud of myself for being able to grind out the first two days of stroke play in those tough conditions and come out on top. Match play is completely different than stroke play, so going into it as the number one seed didn't necessarily give me any extra assurance. However, it was comforting to know that I was able to play the courses well, so I was able to take that into match play.

MAS You've had a string of titles and achievements during your junior year at Wake Forest. What are you hoping to achieve in your senior year as a fitting end to your college play?

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We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding
the new "NewsLinks" newsletter. Please submit your ideas
to Logan Erickson at logan@awga.org.



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Cheyenne Woods

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CW I have seen my game improve each year I've been at Wake Forest. I definitely plan to continue that improvement into my senior year. And I want



to defend my ACC Championship title! But along with that I believe I'm able to win some regular season events. I came close to a couple wins last season and I think this experience of being in contention will help me next season. In addition, I have been named to the Honorable Mention All-American team the past two years so one of my goals is to definitely play well enough to be recognized as a First Team All American.

MAS Other than being your #1 fan, how would you describe your relationship with your mom and the role she has played in your life regarding golf?

CW If it were not for my mom, I know I would not have made it as far as I have. Since I started golfing almost 15 years ago, she has always been there with me every step of the way. As a junior, she drove me to all my tournaments, arranged golf lessons,

planned out-of-state golf tournaments and was proud of me no matter how I played. Unlike a lot of golf parents, my mom has always been easy to talk to regardless of how I might have played that day. I think



that's where I get such an optimistic personality, which I hadn't noticed until my team recently pointed it out to me. Thanks to my mom I've been able to not only have a successful golf career, but I have had values instilled in me that allow me to see the importance of an education and having a well rounded life.

MAS How do you feel about your game now?

CW I feel very good about where my game is right now. Although I did not qualify for the Women's Am a couple weeks ago, I think that my game is steadily improving. The Public Links showed me how much I've improved even from NCAAs in May. Without feeling 100% about my game, I was still able to compete against the strong field that the Public Links brought. I know that once our season starts in September, I will be more than ready to compete.

MAS What is your major at Wake Forest? Do you plan to work in that field after you graduate?

CW I am majoring in communications at Wake Forest. I am interested in working in media, preferably in broadcasting in front of the camera. But after graduation this next year, I will not be looking or applying for jobs in the communication field.

MAS Are you considering becoming an LPGA Tour player?

CW Yes! That has always been my goal ever since I started playing when I was about 6 years old. Once I graduate, I plan on practicing and working with my coach taking the steps to having a successful professional golf career which includes getting ready for Q-school, qualifying school for the LPGA and Futures tour and earning my tour card. When I played in my first LPGA tournament two summers ago (the Wegmans), I had the opportunity to play with professional golfers. It was a great experience for me to get a taste of professional golf. It was also great to see how my game compared to the women on the LPGA, where I one day want to be.

MAS From your own experience over the years and your success on the course, what tips could you give amateur women golfers to improve their game?

CW The advice I always give is to have fun with it. I have the most fun when I am out practicing with my friends or teammates. So when I do go out to play or practice I try to make it fun by inviting people. This also makes it more competitive which will help push you to improve your own game. The more fun you have with golf and actually enjoy it, the easier it is to get out there in the heat, the cold or the rain and push yourself to work on improving your game.

A Call to All AWGA Members

How You Can Support Our Junior Girls Golf Programs

As we all know, learning to play golf at an early age not only provides youngsters with sound values but also contributes to an active lifestyle that is rewarded by developing self-confidence, self-esteem, a fit body and camaraderie with like-minded, reputable friends.

Get Involved: As avid golfers who love the game, every AWGA member has the opportunity to support junior girl's golf. At every level, the best presented, most attended, and most enjoyable golf events and programs are those with the best and most supportive volunteers. This is true of the very top LPGA and PGA Tour events and even more so all the way at the base, the junior golf programs. The LPGA*USGA Girls Golf Program is successful and thriving in Arizona, but they need your help, and there are many ways that adults can get involved. Whether or not little girls learn to play golf depends on us as women. She may be a neighbor or your own child or grandchild, either way, she can't get there by herself.

According to Rose Nehring, Volunteer Coordinator for LPGA*USGA Girls Golf in Tucson, there are many avenues for women to get involved. You could provide transportation, play golf with them after their lessons and talk to them about basic Rules and Etiquette, all great ways a woman can offer support. Moms are working more than ever in today's world. You may be able to reach out to help a mom who otherwise would not be able to support her daughter in golf.

Kathy Knadler, LPGA*USGA Girls Golf in Phoenix, said she can always use moms and grandmas as volunteers. She described

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Introducing the AWGA Golf Performance Series

Whose slogan was it a few years ago that said, "You're not getting older, You're getting better"? (You'll have to read to the bottom to find out the answer!) Well, here at the AWGA, we know we can't do anything to make the first part of that slogan true, but we think we can help with the second part...at least where your golf performance is concerned.

The AWGA Golf Performance Series is a new program being piloted this fall. Our goal with the program is to provide, in a group setting, an introduction to various different teaching theories and methodologies, enabling you to "try before you buy" in finding teachers and techniques that work for you to improve your golf game.

The first pilot session is scheduled for Saturday, October 22, 2011 at Tatum Ranch Golf Club in Cave Creek. The second session, scheduled for Saturday November 12th, will be presented in the Tucson area. (The exact Tucson location had not been selected at the time of this article, but is currently available on the AWGA website.) The events are open to members and non-members, at a significant savings for AWGA members. Register at www.awga.org. Registrations are limited to 60 participants and will be taken first come, first served.

These two pilot sessions will feature the Titleist Performance Institute (TPI) Assessment for Golfers. If you watch the Golf Channel (of course you do!), you are at least familiar with the logo. This methodology is based on a physical assessment of your mobility, stability, and golf swing. The testing protocol was developed by physical therapists, professional golfers, chiropractors, professional trainers and other medical professionals. The improvement regimen is based on the theory of fitness first.

The program will last three hours, during which participants will get to experience the basics of the assessment process and get immediate verbal feedback on the most significant weaknesses in each area assessed. Those who choose to purchase a more complete report of the assessment done during the session may do so at an additional charge.

Three Level III TPI Certified professionals will present the program; Mindi Boysen, Fitness Professional; Debra Pentz, Medical Professional; and Peggy Briggs, Golf Professional. The session is designed to be fun, interactive, and educational. Read each of the presenters' full bios on our website when you register. www.awga.org. Do you remember the ad now? "You're not getting older, you're getting better." It was Loving Care by Clairol, a brand they've since discontinued. If you are curious, google the ad. It was a pretty good message to our moms back in the 70's, and it still speaks to women of today.

In case you want to make a day of it, the host sites have also arranged discounts for participants in their restaurants, pro-shops, and golf course. You and your friends might like to stay for lunch, do some shopping, or play a few holes to test what you learned during your assessment. Bring a friend and join us October 22nd or November 12th!



Is Your Club in Compliance?

By Logan Erickson

Since the early 1780s golf committees have been organized to review the basic rules and regulations of the game of golf. This process started locally, with individual clubs reviewing and formalizing everything from the Rules of Golf to the procedure by which players would be handicapped. As the game grew, so did the need for a governing body of golf to set the standards by which everyone would play.

Early on, players focused heavily on discovering an equitable way to handicap a match. The system started out very basically; two players would agree on their odds and one player would receive a certain number of strokes during the round. This process was a good start, but it didn't really take into account the differences in players' games nor the difficulty of the golf course being played. It wasn't until the 1980s that the USGA implemented the current handicapping system, which takes into account both the variance in skill of the golfers and the assortment of golf courses available.

A key component of the system is an accurate measurement of golf course difficulty. The USGA licenses local golf associations to measure and rate each golf course according to specific procedures which are defined by the USGA. While this is simple enough to describe, the effort involved for golf associations to train the raters, complete the on-course work and maintain the records is significant.

Another critical component is the responsibility of clubs in applying the rules of the handicap system. This requires licensing clubs, training its officers, certifying club representatives, maintaining club records and auditing each club as needed. Though the USGA sets the standards, they authorize regional golf associations to administer the system. Within Arizona, only the Arizona Golf Association and Arizona Women's Golf Association are licensed by the USGA. This is administered through the Arizona Handicap Network (AZHN). Through the AGA and AWGA clubs have direct access to proper training and support needed to provide an equitable golfing experience for all members.

To be licensed, each club is required to fulfill minimum obligations to ensure compliance with the system, in its entirety. These include signing a statement that acknowledges an understanding of the system and a promise to adhere to all the policies.

Each club is required to operate under bylaws and have a handicap committee chaired by a member. Although golf staff may serve on the committee, in no case is he/she eligible to serve as the chairperson. The USGA makes this distinction to protect the professional from the possibility of having to take punitive action against a member. In other words, the system was created by amateur golfers with the idea that the amateurs would control club operations and police themselves.

Clubs are also required to send a representative to an educational seminar on handicapping and to pass a test demonstrating his/her knowledge. These checks and balances help guarantee consistency and assurances that all clubs under the AZHN umbrella are following the system as intended.



March

1. Margaret Goldman . Las Colinas WGA

April

21. Carole Hansen . Copper Canyon WGA

May

7. Marilyn Tate . Mtn.View/Preserve WGA

31. Eleanor Gold . Palo Verde CC WGA

June

7. Jan McClain . Las Colinas WGA

9. Randi Kemper . EWGA Tucson - Old Pueblo

9. Beverly Guy . Gold Canyon WGA

10. Sherry Courson . Quail Creek CC WGA

11. Anne Peaker . Mtn.View/Preserve WGA

12. Rossana Conley. Mesa Del Sol Ladies 18

19. Kelly Hollister . Working Women's Golf Assn.

20. Ginny Zak . Superstition Mtn. GC Women

21. Rusty Clouse . Verde Santa Fe WGA

21. Suzanne Oliva . Starr Pass Golf Club Ladies

26. Carol Clifford . Desert Hills GC WGA

27. Rosie Van Beek . Silver Creek GC Women

30. Sandra Stark . Quail Creek CC WGA

July

5. Sandy Freeman . Trilogy WGA

13. Cynthia Schneider . Canoa Ranch/Torres Blancas

17. Caro Patterson . Pines GC @ Marana Women

19. Kathy Zoglio . Gallery WGA

22. Georgia Jennings . Lake Havasu WGA

25. Karen Stensrud . Quail Creek CC WGA

27. Suzanne Lemke . Sun Lakes CC Lady Niners

August

1. Cookie Logue . Canoa Hills WGA

1. Luanne Lea . Elephant Rocks Womens Club

5. Di Glasson . Copper Canyon WGA

7. Amy Kim. San Marcos WGA

25. Ethel Caverno . Briarwood CC

September

3. Ann Wright . Saddlebrooke WGA



SEVEN

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Upcoming Tournaments

October 1-2, 2011

Southeastern Arizona Women's Amateur
Turquoise Valley Golf Course
Pueblo del Sol

October 18-19, 2011

Southern District Fall Partners
Kino Springs Golf Club

October 24-25

AWGA Partners Tournament
StoneRidge Golf Course

November 14-15

AWGA Scotch Play Tournament
Rio Rico Resort & Country Club

December 5th, 2011

AWGA State Medallion Club Team
Wigwam Golf Resort & Spa

Is Your Club in Compliance?

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In order to accommodate the more than 700 men's and women's clubs in Arizona, the AGA and the AWGA conduct educational seminars for members all over the state. The seminars are fun, interactive and informative while aiming to help golfers understand the system. Ultimately, they ensure correct implementation at each club. Check the AGA and AWGA websites for a schedule of these events at www.azgolf.org and www.awga.org.

As is the case with the Rules of Golf, the USGA publishes new handicapping policies every four years. Each four-year period is a cycle in which clubs must



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fulfill the basic requirements at some point during that timeframe. Jan. 1, 2012 marks the first day of the new licensing cycle. Each club will receive a packet with all new compliance paperwork, as well as more details about compliance requirements.

As always, the AGA and AWGA staff are available during regular business hours to help your club in any way it can.

Junior Girls Golf Programs

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their "Caddie Division" where mom or grandma and her granddaughter play three holes around 150 yards and grandma is the caddie. "I've had grandmas volunteer whose goal was to financially support their grandchild. Grandmas foster love of the game because of how much they have enjoyed it and how golf has enhanced their own lives," she said.

Upcoming Events:

Tucson: On October 29th, LPGA*USGA Tucson, is hosting its 4th Annual Super Girls Golf Day. The event is FREE, open to the public and will be held at the Randolph Golf Complex for girls ages 7-17. "Its purpose is to introduce girls to what the LPGA*USGA Girls Golf Club in Tucson is all about," said Rose. Call or e-mail Rose at 520-577-3925, ranehring@comcast.net.

Phoenix: On October 28th, the Annual Glow Ball Tournament will be held at the Moon Valley Moon Walk Course. It's a mixed team format, one mentor/Grandma with three girls. There will also be a pumpkin carving contest. This is the 14th year for this favorite Haunted Golf event. Sign up by October 20th for just \$20. December 10th is their Annual Holiday Tournament and Gift Exchange. This year it will be held at Shalimar Golf Club. Deadline to register is December 1st. Call or e-mail Kathy at kknadler@jgaa.org, 602-944-6168.



Golfsmith
GOLF & TENNIS



EIGHT

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