

2015 WMSGA Junior Chair Report

This has been an exciting season for junior golfers. While we had a small number of girls at Bring A Junior Day at Turner Highlands, we had a good number of girls participate in the Maine Women's Amateur.

Bring A Junior Day was held at Turner this Summer. We had three young ladies participate in that event. Ruby Haylock, Mia Hornberger, and Stephanie Rodrigue participated. They were presented nice gifts from our WMSGA association. Gift bags were made and donated by Jan Staples.

This year's Maine Women's Amateur was held at the lovely Biddeford –Saco Country Club. We had three glorious days of golf weather. Juniors playing this year were: Bailey Plourd from the Samoset, Ruby Haylock from Turner Highlands, Stephanie Rodrigue from Fox Ridge, Erin Holmes from ValHalla, Jordan Laplume from Dunegrass, and Lauren Shonewolf from Purpoodock. Bailey was the Junior Champ with a three day total of 238. In Flight One Erin Holmes was a third place winner with a score of 243. Stephanie Rodrigue won the third flight with a three day total of 263. I had the pleasure of playing with young Ruby Haylock. She has a very bright future ahead of her.

In August we held the Janet Drouin Memorial at Natanis on the Arrowhead course. We had three girls participate this year, Bailey, Steph, and Ruby. Bailey took home both the Championship trophy and the Junior Championship trophy with a two day total of 145. Ruby took home the prize for Net in the fourth flight with a two day total of 124.

A little bit about some of our juniors:

Erin Holmes plays out of ValHalla and is now playing for Greely High School. She is a junior there this year. Erin is very proud of getting her handicap down to a 5. She has played in many MSGA tourneys this Summer. She plays internationally and also in the American Junior Golf Assoc. Her last international tournament this year is around Thanksgiving at TPC Sawgrass. Erin is also on the synchronized skating team and the Varsity lacrosse team. Her goals are to win the states this year in golf and play college golf some day.

Jordan Laplume is a freshman at Thornton Academy. Jordan has a twin brother Jacob who also plays golf. She actually began playing golf at 4 years old. She was the women's club champ at Dunegrass this Summer. She also won the 13-14 year old division at Toddy Brook for Maine State Golf. She is proud that she placed 20th at MWA. Jordan is 2-2 in matches so far. She is consistently shooting in the 30's. She is feeling very comfortable with her team. She is a member of the co-ed Thornton Academy team and just shot a 38 to win against Windham High School. Her favorite course to play is Biddeford-Saco.

Stephanie Rodrigue is a sophomore at Lewiston High School. She plays out of Fox Ridge and also works there. I had the pleasure of playing with her at Fox Ridge this Summer. She is little, but packs a mighty big game. Tom LeBlonde, Steph's coach describes her as a "pepper pot". She has spunk and energy. She plays the number 2 spot for Lewiston on an all boys team. She fits in well with the boys and loves the competition. She just received a new swing device from her uncle so she can practice all winter. She will tell you that her passion in life is GOLF.

Ruby Haylock is an 11 year old 6th grader. She is very well rounded at this tender age. She plays flute in the jazz band. She was selected to District 2 in chorus. She is in Student Council. Her passions are golf and softball. She was the number one pitcher in U10 softball and has been an All-Star the last two years. She has participated in the Drive, Chip, and Putt competition sponsored by the PGA. She has qualified for the regionals in Massachusetts. She played in many WMSGA events this Summer shooting an 89 at Springbrook. She is a member of the ladies league at Turner partnering with her mom Heidi. They were the third place team this season. She also was second at the South Portland Junior Open and won at Gorham Country club for the third time.

Ruby loves: wakeboarding, swimming, tubing, skiing, and snowmobiling.

Lauren Shonewolf is 16 and lives in Cape Elizabeth. She started playing golf in 6th grade. She was introduced to the game by her dad and brother. They are both very good golfers. She plays out of Purpoodock. Lauren recently won the Maine State Golf's 15-17 Division. She also won last year in the 13-14 year old Division. She is a member of the National Honor Society at Cape. She works in the Summers at Kettle Cove Creamery and Café. She also swims and is on the softball team. She loves golf because it helps shape you as a person.

Mia Hornberger is a 10 year old 5th grader. I also had the pleasure of playing a round of golf with Mia at Bath CC. She has a smooth, silky golf swing. Mia's dad began teaching her golf as a toddler. She began playing tournaments at age 8. Mia competed in the Drive, Chip and Putt competition last year. This year she placed second in Maine then placed 6th in Massachusetts. Mia and her mom Prudence were the ladies league champs this Summer at Turner Highlands. Mia has played in both SMWGA and WMSGGA events this season. She also plays in many junior tournaments. Mia loves basketball and loves to ski and swim.

Bailey Plourde is a junior at Lincoln Academy and plays her golf out of the Samoset. She began playing golf at the tender age of 5. She would go to the golf course with her grandfather. She has been mentored along the way by Helen Plourd and Gail Gleason. Bailey has an extremely active following in her tournaments with her parents and her grandparents following her from course to course. You will see Bailey's dad Bob caddying for her at many events. Bailey competed in her first MWA at 13 and came in 14th place. In 2014 she was 3rd place and Junior Champ, and 2015 she was 4th place and Junior Champ again. At the Janet Drouin Memorial Bailey was 5th last year and this year the champ and junior champ. In high school competition Bailey was 5 and 5 playing the number 2 spot in 2013. She was also the Maine State Girls' Champ. In 2014 she was 6-2-1tie and played the number 1 spot on the boys' team all season. She was voted the team MVP. She was the Maine State Girls' runner-up. So far this Summer season she has had much success. She was Player of the Week in a Junior Golf tour event in New Jersey. She placed in the top 5 in 3 IJGT this Spring. She qualified for the IJGT Bridgestone Tournament in Orlando in May and the Junior National Championship "Big I" in Kansas in August. She recently participated in the 2015 Women's State Team Championship in Missouri along with Emily Bouchard and Staci Creech.

Bailey loves to dance. She loves ballet, hip hop, and jazz. She has been dancing since the age of 8. She has choreographed her own dance for the past five years as well as for other dancers. She and her dad performed in two dance recitals this year at the Chocolate Church. Her other interest is basketball. She was out with an ankle injury last year. She will be a shooting guard on this year's varsity at LA.

Wow! We have some pretty talented young ladies in our association. Let's keep them coming.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Wootton