



WOMEN'S GOLF REPORT



This might be called our championship issue. It features reports on several championship events that have been contested in recent weeks. We hope you enjoy our accounts.

It seems that today's champions, at both the amateur and professional levels, are becoming ever younger. Many of these young players have ambitions of playing professionally one day.

But it's important to remember the lasting contributions that career amateurs have made to the sport.

The passing of Dorothy Germain Porter on July 20th marked the end of an era. Mrs. Porter's career spanned some six decades. She played in her first tournament two years before the outbreak of World War II and won the Philadelphia Women's Amateur Championship for the ninth time in 1992.

In today's climate, when so much attention is focused on professional golf, it is far too easy to overlook the accomplishments of women like Porter, who never turned professional.

But make no mistake, she was one of the best that ever was.

Rick Woelfel
Editor/Publisher

Dorothy Germain Porter Left Her Mark on the Game

By Rick Woelfel

She never played as a professional. But Dorothy Germain Porter, who passed away on July 20th at age 88 from complications of pneumonia, was unquestionably one of the greatest golfers in history. A five-time USGA national champion, her career extended from the pre-World War II era to the Title IX era.

Mrs. Porter was born in Philadelphia on April 3, 1924, the youngest of three children.

She grew up at Llanerch Country Club, where she took up golf at age 12 under the tutelage of veteran professional Marty Lyons.

Mrs. Porter won the first tournament she ever competed in, the 1937 Philadelphia Junior-Junior Girls Championship, which was played at her home club. She won three straight Philadelphia Junior Girls titles from 1939-41.

After graduating from Upper Darby High, where she played on the boys' golf team, and also played basketball and field hockey Mrs. Porter enrolled at



Beaver College (now Arcadia University). She earned a degree in Physical Education, graduating in the spring of 1946.

Even before she reached college she was competing at the national level. In 1941, at age 17, she qualified for match play at the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship.

In 1946 Mrs. Porter won her first Philadelphia Women's Amateur title, defeating Helen Sigel in the championship match at Philadelphia Country Club. She would go on to win that championship a total of nine, the last in 1992 at age 68.

Her first significant national win came in 1943 in the Women's Western Amateur outside Chicago. The Western was the most prestigious women's amateur event in the nation at the time; the U.S. Women's Amateur had been suspended due to World War II. The following year, Mrs. Porter lost to Babe Didrikson Zaharias in the finals of the Western Open before successfully defending her Women's Western Amateur title six weeks later.

Mrs. Porter won her first USGA title in 1949 when she captured the U.S. Women's Amateur title at Merion,

defeating Dorothy Kielty 3 and 2 in the championship match.

Her win assured her of a spot on the United States Curtis Cup team the following year.

By this time Mrs. Porter was one of the top players in the world. But she had no interest in joining the fledging LPGA Tour, which was just getting off the ground at the time. She and her husband had started a family and she was content to stay at home as opposed to being a golfing nomad.

So Mrs. Porter confined her efforts to amateur golf. She won the Pennsylvania Women's Amateur title three times between 1946 and '55 before being she was deemed ineligible to compete for it because she was not a Pennsylvania resident (she and her husband had moved to new Jersey in 1948 and joined Riverton Country Club in 1951).

In 1977 Mrs. Porter claimed her second national championship, the USGA Senior Women's Amateur at the Dunes Golf Club in Myrtle Beach, where she

scored a one-shot victory over Alice Dye in the 54-hole medal-play event. Mrs. Porter added additional Senior Women's Amateur titles in 1980, 1981, and 1983.

Her five national championships leave her tied for sixth place on the all-time list among women with Juli Inkster, Mickey Wright, and Carolyn Cudone. They trail only JoAnne Gunderson Carner, who won eight national titles, Anne Quast Sander and Carol Semple Thompson with seven, and Hollis Stacy and Glenna Collett Vare, with six.

Mrs. Porter served as the non-playing captain of the United States Curtis Cup team in 1966 and also captained the American team in the 1984 Women's World Amateur Team Championship.

Mrs. Porter's husband Mark, to whom she was married for 50 years, died in 1996. She is survived by three children and nine grandchildren.



Women's Four-Ball to Join NJSGA Schedule in 2013

By Fred Behringer

The New Jersey State Golf Association will inaugurate a championship in 2013 to significantly expand the competitive opportunities for women.

The NJSGA Women's Four-Ball Stroke Play Championship will take place Monday, July 15 at TPC Jasna Polana in Princeton.

The NJSGA Women's Committee proposed the additional event to attract women whose handicaps are not low enough to permit them to compete in the State Women's Amateur Championship with a 14.0 Handicap Index limit and the Women's Senior Amateur Championship with a 19.4 handicap Index limit.

"The vast majority of women golfers in New Jersey have Indexes well above that so we would like to reach out and get them more involved," according to Carol Graybeal of Fairmount Country Club, a member of the Women's Committee and director of the Women's Amateur, who has been a strong advocate of creating the new championship. Coleen Luker of Beacon Hill Country Club, chairperson of the Women's Committee, recalls, "When players approached me at different NJSGA

events, the one tournament on their wish list was a women's Four-Ball. When the Women's Committee started to talk about adding another championship, this was the obvious choice. We all know from our own experiences that team events are very popular, and with the handicap requirement of 30, so many more women who play at our member clubs would be eligible to play." "We hit a home run when TPC Jasna Polana offered to be our host in 2013."

Anne Murphy of Trump National Golf Club, secretary of the Women's Committee who will serve as director of the Women's Four-Ball, says women in the Garden State already are looking forward to the event. "We are delighted to be going to TPC Jasna Polana for this inaugural championship," she noted. "As word about the event is getting out, we have sensed a growing excitement about it and are anticipating a full field of 60 teams."

Partners entering the Women's Four-Ball will not have to be members of the same NJSGA club. More information about the new championship is available by calling Carol Graybeal at 973-635-8262.

This story furnished by the New Jersey State Golf Association

Liu Captures Philadelphia Women's Amateur

By Rick Woelfel

Alex Liu's talents are hardly a secret. The recent Lower Merion High grad had an impressive career at the high-school level; she placed second at the PIAA District One tournament last fall and eventually tied for ninth at the state tournament.

Even before she reached high school she was a fixture in junior events in the Philadelphia area, playing out of Commonwealth National Golf Club.

But on a dreary Friday at Riverton Country Club Liu took her game to another level by defeating Merion veteran Liz Haines 7 and 6 to win the 112th playing of the Philadelphia Women's Amateur Championship, the oldest regional women's championship in America.

Liu, who turned 19 the week after the final, joins a roll call of champions that includes some of the greatest names in the history of women's golf.

She never trailed in the scheduled 36-hole final, but her march to the winner's circle was hardly a walkover. After winning medalist honors in qualifying with an even-par 73, Liu bested Cynthia Clough of Philadelphia Cricket 4 and 3 in her opening round match, before edging Kerry Rutan (Philadelphia Cricket) 2 and 1 in the quarterfinals. Catherine Elliott (Merion), the reigning Farnum Cup champion was next in a match that went to the 18th hole before Liu prevailed 1 up.

Liu, who is headed to William and Mary this fall, was focused coming into the Amateur after falling short in her club championship by a single stroke the weekend before. "I played really badly and I was really upset," she said. "So I was coming into this week thinking 'I want to win. I want to make up for what I did.'"

Haines, who won the Women's Amateur in 1985 and '94 played a lot of golf to reach the finals. She needed 21 holes to eliminate Marji Goldmasn (Philadelphia Cricket), then 19 more to stop Bonnie George (Huntingdon Valley). In the semifinals she faced Kelsey Solan (Burlington) who took out defending champion Lauren Bernard (Aronimink) in the opening round. Haines prevailed 2 and 1 to earn a spot in the championship match.

One of the most resolute competitors of her generation, Haines came into the week without great expectations. "I was focused on one shot at a time, and one match at a time," she said. "That's the way I've already done it." Liu never trailed in the scheduled 36-hole final. She was steady from the beginning, opening her round with nine straight pars. After six holes she enjoyed a 3-up advantage.

Overnight rain made the golf course play longer than its listed 5,686 yards and Liu's short game held her in good stead. Her best effort came at the par-4 third when she missed the green but was able to get up and down for par by holing an 8-foot putt.



Alex Liu

Haines cut into the lead when hit her approach at the par-5 seventh to six feet and drained the birdie putt. Liu was 2 up at the turn and was 3 up through the 15th, but Haines won the 16th and 18th with pars to go to lunch just 1 down. With the usual match-play concessions both players played the opening 18 in 4 over par.

Liu took the first four holes of the afternoon round to go 5 up after the 22nd hole as Haines struggled to find the fairway off the tee.

Haines won the par-3 24th with a par but Liu won the 27, 28th, and 29th to go dormie before the match ended at the 30th.

The new champion played her last 12 holes in the equivalent of even par.

"This afternoon she just played much better than I did," Haines said. "She played very, very well."

Liu's confidence increased as the week progressed. "I knew I was playing well," she said, "I didn't know if I would make it this far, but I'm really glad I did."

Liu cited her win over Rutan in the quarterfinals as a key to the week. "I think that was one of my toughest matches," she said. "She is mentally strong and she is always there. Beating her was difficult."

The Women's Golf Association first crowned an amateur champion in 1897. The championship has been played every year since, save for an interruption during World War II.

Helen Sigel Wilson holds the all-time record with 12 championships between 1941 and 1968. Not included in that total are the wins she recorded in 1942 and '44 in 36-hole stroke play events that replaced the Women's Amateur during the war.

Ann Laughlin, a Riverton member, is next on the list with 11 titles between 1974 and 1993. She lost to Laura Ladden in the championship match in 2006.

First Round

Kelsey Solan (Burlington) def. Lauren Bernard (Aronimink) 1 up; Tina Gregor (Huntingdon Valley) def. Karen Sigel (Commonwealth National) 3 and 2; Bonnie George (Huntingdon Valley) def. Ann Laughlin (Riverton) 4 and 3; Liz Haines (Merion) def. Marji Goldman (Philadelphia Cricket) 21 holes; Alex Liu (Commonwealth National) def. Cynthia Clough (Philadelphia Cricket) 4 and 3; Kerry Rutan (Philadelphia Cricket) def. Karen McFadden (Overbrook) 3 and 2; Alexandra Frazier (Gulph Mills) def. Wendy Kennedy (Springhaven) 19 holes; Catherine Elliott (Merion) def. Lynn Fulmer (Riverton) 5 and 3.

Quarterfinals

Solan def. Gregor 1 up; Haines def. George 19 holes; Liu def. Rutan 2 and 1; Elliott def. Frazier 1 up.

Semifinals

Haines def. Solan 2 and 1; Liu def. Elliott 1 up

Championship

Liu def. Haines 7 and 6

First Flight

Maryyann Hajduk def. Joanne Burke 1 up

Medalist

Alex Liu 73

Hershberger is New Jersey Women's Champion

By Rick Woelfel

She played as though she were on familiar ground. Which in a sense she was.

Alexandra Hershberger played two thoughtful, workmanlike rounds of golf on the final day to win the 87th New Jersey Women's Amateur Championship at Crestmont Country Club in West Orange,

The 18-year old Hershberger, who plays out of Twin Brooks Country Club, defeated 15-year old Cindy Ha of Valley Brook Golf Club 4 and 3 in the scheduled 36-hole championship match.

It was Hershberger's second consecutive trip to the finals; she fell to Scotland Preston in last year's championship match at Hackensack.

Hershberger, who is headed to the University of Virginia this fall, won the New Jersey State Golf Association's Girls Junior title in 2010 but winning the women's championship of her home state was particularly meaningful. Her mother Madeleine was on her bag while her father Andrew walked the fairways.

"This is one of the big tournaments that's really important to me," she said. "I'm off to college so to share this with my family was absolutely incredible. It means the world to me. That my mom and dad could be here and were tearing up by the end of it.

"Honestly it's going to be one of my best childhood memories."

This year's edition of the Women's Amateur featured a new format. The medal-play portion of the championship was expanded to 36 holes with the top eight finishers in the starting field of 54 moving on to the championship flight.

Hershberger carded rounds of 74-75 to wind up at 5-over par 149 and earn the second seed for match play, three shots behind Ha, who finished with rounds of 70-76—146.

Hershberger bested veteran Fran Gacos of Copper Hill 2 and 1 on the morning of Day Three in the quarterfinals before eliminating Noelle Maertz (Hyatt Hills) 5 and 3 in the semifinals later the same day, despite waiting out a three-hour weather delay.

Ha, who will be a junior at Demarest High this fall, won the New Jersey Girls Junior in 2011 and qualified for the U.S. Women's Amateur that same year. She was the co-medalist at the U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links in June of this year.

She reached the Women's Amateur finals by defeating Alexandra Baginski (Francis Byrne) 8 and 7 in the quarterfinals and Abby Lim (Overpeck) 4 and 3 in the semis.

Hershberger never trailed in the championship match. She won the par-4 third hole by rolling in a 10-foot birdie putt before Ha responded with an 8-foot birdie at the par-3 fourth.

Hershberger won the fifth with a par before but Ha squared the match with a 15-foot birdie putt at the par-4 sixth.

Hershberger took the lead for good when she claimed the par-3 eighth with a par. At the ninth she pulled off what may have been the key shot in the match. She went over the green with her approach at the 429-yard par five, chipped to five feet, then rolled in a tricky downhill putt to halve the hole.

"That was a nice boost," Hershberger said. "That shot was really helpful to my mindset."

Hershberger won the next four holes with four consecutive threes, including an eagle at the 12th, to extend her lead to 5 up as she walked to the 14th tee. In contrast to last year's final, when she hurt herself by being overly aggressive, her focus was on sound decision making.

"My main strategy going into today was to play consistent and smart," she said. "Sometimes I do tend to go for a pin or go for a certain angle off the tee. So my main goal for today was just play for the fairway, hit the green, and two putt, especially out here because the greens are really fast."

Hershberger noted that it was an asset having her mother, a former member of the Swedish national team, on her bag. "She keeps me so grounded. She thinks very pragmatically about all the options and what's smart and what not to do. Having her there keeps me in the smart mindset... The pieces of advice she gives me are invaluable."

Hershberger took a 4-up lead into the lunch break, having played the opened 18 holes in the equivalent of one under par.

Any concerns about her losing her momentum during the 45-minute interlude between rounds disappeared when she split the fairway with her tee shot at the 19th.

"Once you take a break anything can change,"

Hershberger said. "I could slack off or she could hit the ground running right off the bat. So it's hard to take a pause when you're so into it. But I soon as I hit my first tee shot off the 19th hole and it was straight I could tell the pause wasn't going to matter and I was going to be able to pick up right where I left off."

Hershberger's lead was never less than three holes all afternoon. She was 5 up with seven holes remaining and closed out the match by sinking a 6-foot par putt at the 33rd. She played the 3 holes in equivalent of one under par.

For Ha it was a disappointing ending to a solid week of golf.

"I played really well during the stroke-play rounds," she said, "so I knew I had a really good opportunity to get to the finals. But Alex played really well so I can't complain.

"It's not like I played terribly today. I played decently; Alex just played a lot better."

Chip shots—This marked the fourth time in the last five years that the champion was 18 or younger... The New Jersey Women's Amateur was first played in 1923. It was suspended from 1943-45 because of World War II. Teresa Saponaro Belmont from the United States Golf Association refereed the championship match.

Quarterfinals

Cindy Ha (Valley Brook) defeated Alexandra Baginski (Francis Byrne) 8 and 7; Abby Lim (Manasquan River) def. Kelsi Kavanaugh (Overpeck) 4 and 3; Alexandra Hershberger (Twin Brooks) def. Fran Gacos (Copper Hill) 2 and 1; Noelle Maertz (Hyatt Hills) def. Nicole Marino (Panther Valley) 5 and 3.

Semifinals

Ha def. Lim 3 and 2; Hershberger def. Maertz 5 and 3.

Championship

Hershberger def. Ha 4 and 3

Second Flight Final

Scotland Preston (Echo Lake) def. Claire Serruto (Montclair) 3 and 2

Third Flight Final

Megan McLean (Fiddler's Elbow) def. Kelsey Solan (Burlington) 2 up

Medalist

Alexandra Hershberger

Hershberger Seeks Balance Off The Golf Course

By Rick Woelfel

Countless young golfers have ambitions of playing the sport professionally. Fewer have the ability to actually realize those ambitions, but some difficulty accepting that reality and pour the entirety of their emotional beings into chasing an impossible dream.

Then there is the case of Alexandra Hershberger, the recently crowned New Jersey Women's Amateur champion.

Hershberger is an incoming freshman at the University of Virginia this fall. She brings with her a fine golf swing and 19 credit hours, after taking advanced-placement courses at Ridge High. She joins one of the strongest collegiate programs in America; the Cavaliers have been to NCAA championships five years in succession, one of just six schools in history to achieve that distinction.

As good a player as she is, and serious as she is about her golf, Hershberger isn't sure that playing for a living is what she wants for herself.

"(Playing professional golf) is the dream," she says, "but I don't think it's really realistic and I'm fine with that because (golf) is just something I love. I'll actually never stop it and I'll pass it on to my kids and it will just continue. And that's fine with me."

More than one athlete, regardless of gender or sport, has succumbed to the pressure of expectations, either their own, or those of others.

Many reached the point where they no longer got any joy or satisfaction from their athletic accomplishments. Hershberger, who didn't start playing golf seriously until she reached high school, credits her parents with helping her avoid tumbling into that abyss.

"My parents led a very balanced golf lifestyle with me," she says. "I know parents put pressure on their kids and you put pressure on yourself, but they never forced to play golf or threatened that I had to keep playing; it was always my choice. Growing up I actually didn't really like it... but when it's not forced upon you then you actually start to love it and then you want to go out and practice; it's not something that's a chore anymore."

Hershberger, who is 18 and likely to redshirt her first year at Virginia, says finding the proper balance between golf and academics made the recruiting process easier, and made Virginia an ideal fit for her.

"It definitely does make it easier," she says. "The recruiting process was absolutely insane though and at some point you feel like you're not going to end up anywhere and that you might have to settle or something."

"I am blessed that I would even be given the chance to play at the University of Virginia and it's going to be difficult because they have their high standards and they have girls who are very excellent at golf. But I could not be happier."

McDaid Wins Women's Met Open

Former U.S. Women's Amateur champion Becky McDaid carded a final-round 69 to win the silver anniversary edition of the Women's Met Open at North Shore Golf Club on Long Island.

McDaid, a teaching professional at Friar's Head Golf Club, finished the two-day test at 1-over par 143.

It's the second Met Open title in three years for McDaid, who won the U.S. Women's Amateur in 2002.

She finished two shots clear of former LPGA Tour player Sue Ginter (Rolling Hills) and teenage amateur standout Natalie Morales (GlennArbor) who shared second place at 145.

Alicia Dibos (Winged Foot), also a former touring professional, was fourth at 147, while amateur Cheryl Brayman from the host club was at 150 along with professional Ashley Gersten from Burning Tree. Gersten, along with amateurs Lauren Hambaugh (Muttontown Club) and Marie Santacroce (Indian Island) shared the opening-round lead after matching 72s with Dibos a shot behind.

McDaid, Ginter, and Morales were all two shots from the lead, but McDade made a charge on Day Two, by playing her opening nine holes in three under par. She bogeyed twice coming in but finished her round with a birdie at the par-5 18th.

"I hit fairways and greens and made a few putts," she said, "and was able to stand up on the last hole and make a birdie."

Ironically, McDade hasn't played much golf over the past couple seasons and has cut back on her teaching load. She's been spending the bulk of her time with her daughter Maggie, who is now 16 months old.

"I don't exactly practice anymore," she said. "The closest I get to that is when one of my students asks me to hit a shot.

"It was fun to compete again and focus on golf."

Becky McDaid (Friar's Head)	74-69—143
Sue Ginter (Rolling Hills)	74-71—145
Nicole Morales (a) (GlennArbor)	74-71—145
Alicia Dibos (Winged Foot)	73-74—147
Cheryl Brayman (a) (North Shore)	75-75—150
Ashley Gersten (Burning Tree)	72-78—150
Michelle Dobek (Fairview)	77-74—151
Dana Bates (Quaker Ridge)	77-74—151
Lauren Himerbaugh (a) (Muttontown)	72-79—151
Liz Caron (Rockrimmon)	79-73—152
Alexandra Hershberger (a) (Twin Brooks)	78-74—152
Marjorie Jones (Chelsea Piers)	75-79--154
Marie Santacroce (a) (Indian Island)	72-82—154
Daria Cummings (a) (Centennial)	83-72—155
C.J. Reeves (Century)	76-80—156
Katie Brenny (Mosholu)	76-80—156
Sarah Stone (Shinnecock Hills)	75-81—156
Amy Maslinaric (Old Oaks)	75-81—156
Teri Hjelte (The Stanwich Club)	74-82—156
Krissy Unger (a) (Indian Hills)	78-79—157
Kasmy Maxfeldt (Birchwood)	79-80—159
Amber Richardson (Springdale)	78-81—159
Margaret Platt-Klaus (Ridgewood)	78-81—159
Wendy Modic (Fenway)	79-81—160
Denise Martorana (a) (Southampton)	82-79—161
Ellen Oswald (Westchester)	80-81—161



McDonald Wins New England Women's Event

Kristen MacDonald led wire to wire on her way to winning the New England Women's Golf Association championship at Natanis Golf Club in Vassalboro, Maine.

McDonald, who plays out of Thomson Country Club in North Reading, Massachusetts, finished the 54 holes over Natanis's Tomahawk Course in 6-over par 216.

The golf course, a Dan Maples creation, played to approximately 5,500 yards for the event.

Samantha Morrell of Laurel Lane Country Club in Massachusetts, finished alone in second place, one shot off the pace at 223

Another Massachusetts player, Pam Kuong of Charles River Country Club, paced third at 231. She was also the low senior in the event.

But the tournament belonged to MacDonald, a former standout at Fairfield, who opened with a 1-under par 71, the low round of the tournament, and was never headed.

Kristen MacDonald, Tomson CC	71-75-76--222
Samantha Morrell, Laurel Lane CC	74-75-74--223
Pam Kuong, Charles River CC	79-77-75--231
Jen Holland, Lyman Orchards GC	75-76-82--233
Katie Partridge, Wintonbury Hills GC	77-78-78--233
Ali Prazak, Green Valley CC	80-78-77--235
Lisanne Schmidt, Eastman Golf Links	82-77-76--235
Alison Eleey, Granite Links GC	72-86-78--236
Annette Gaiotti Olde Barnstable GC	76-81-80--237
Rita Bedard, Glen Ellen CC	78-73-87--238
Lisa Fern-Boros, Highland GC	84-80-76--240
Keely Levins, Rutland CC	78-78-85--241
Natalie Galligan, Brae Burn CC	79-82-81--242
Alexandra Schmidt, Eastman Golf Links	75-88-80--243
Emily Bouchard, Biddeford-Saco CC	81-78-84--243
Kelsey Baker, Hopkinton CC	86-79-78--243
Nicole Coffey, Pequabuck GC	81-79-83--243
Jean Sennett, Wampanoag CC	79-80-85--244
Leslie Guenther, Norway CC	83-81-80--244
Terry Boyce, Killington GC	80-85-81--246
Nicole Tombs, Concord CC	83-81-84--248
Alice Hwang, Penobscot Valley CC	91-81-78--250
Kibbe Reilly, Wannamoisett CC	82-86-82--250
Ann Newman, Wampanoag CC	82-86-84--252
Nancy Diemoz, Montaup CC	83-87-82--252



Antigua Swing Desert Dry Pomergranate

Antigua's Women's 2012 collection features a brighter more playful approach to performance clothing. The color palette has been expanded with a total of six hues ranging from rich jewel tones to soft brights. Color names such as 'honeysuckle', 'tide' and 'lilac' bring about connotations of relaxed summer days while the softer bright colors make any woman feel instantly feminine and comfortable.

Antigua has always wanted to appeal to the average female golf customer. Our last few collections have been extremely successful in that sense, so why would we want to mess with success?" says Danielle Dellios, Antigua's Women's Senior Designer. "By offering an updated color assortment & fresh looking styling we can continue to be current without going overboard.

"The richer shades are perfect for fall, yet have been strategically merchandised to coordinate with any of the other brighter colored pieces to be worn any time of year, on and off the course."

Antigua's already well-established DESERT DRY™ XTRA-LITE fabrications are featured in several styles. Sleeveless styles 'Capture' and 'Lyric' are excellent examples of the super-lightweight jacquard texture & patterned fabrics Antigua has to offer in the DESERT DRY™ XTRA-LITE category. These uniquely developed fabrics are not sheer and wick moisture quickly away from the body to allow for superior cooling functions. Short-sleeve polo styles 'Vibe', 'Fit' and 'Adore' also utilize DESERT DRY™ XTRA-LITE fabrications and each style features a subtly feminine styling detail. Based on previous success with the DESERT DRY™ XTRA-LITE micro-flat pique fabric used for the women's Exceed polo group (including a short sleeve, sleeveless and long-sleeved polo) the new fashion shades are now also part of Antigua's in-stock essential product offering.

Neshanic Valley: The Ultimate Setting

By Rick Woelfel

Now that the U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links Championship has come and gone, regular visitors to Neshanic Valley Golf Course have their course back, which is just cause for celebration.

For Neshanic Valley is nothing short of Nirvana for the daily-fee golfer, the crown jewel of the Somerset County Park Commission's collection of five public courses.

Located in Neshanic Station, New Jersey, Neshanic Valley opened for play in 2004. Its 27 holes are the work of Dr. Michel Hurdzan and Dana Fry, whose design credits include Hamilton Farm and the Militia Hill Course at Philadelphia Cricket Club, among others.

The course has hosted a number of local and regional events and qualifying for several USGA Championships but its greatness is confirmed by how it plays for the average Joe or Jill looking for a positive golf experience.

Rest assured any golfer, whether their handicap is plus-1 or 31 will have a quality experience here. Visitors will be challenged, but those who choose to face those challenges with intelligence and forethought will find them eminently manageable.

Hurdzan and Fry provide ample targets; the fairways are extremely wide, while the bent grass green complexes are larger than average. The bunkers are large as well but not so difficult as to frustrate the high-handicapper.

The fairways are lined with fescue and the rough can be troublesome, but there is plenty of room for the weekend warrior to spray the ball

There are three nines here; the Ridge, the Meadow, and the Lake, the latter two of which were used for the WAPL and for a U.S. Women's Open qualifier in 2009.

The Meadow/Lake combination plays to a maximum 7,569 yards from the deepest of five sets of tees. The Ridge Nine maxes out at 3,516 yards.

At the other end of the scorecard, Meadow/Lake plays to 5,096 yards from the forward markers.

Par for 18 holes is 72, regardless of which nines are combined. Course ratings vary from 64.5 to 73.7 for men and from 69.5 to 77.4 for women.

The slope range is 110-129 for men and 119-143 for women, who have three sets of markers to choose from.

Visitors will appreciate the conditions, which rival those of many private facilities.

On the day of our visit, roughly two weeks before the WAPL, the greens were extraordinarily quick, but provided a very true roll. Save for green speeds and the height of the rough, the conditions were similar to what regular guests see every day—outstanding.

Golf professional Mary Kate Williams worked at Neshanic Valley when it first opened and is familiar with its subtleties.

"It definitely offers something for everybody," she says. "There are so many different tee boxes for the average golfer to play from up to the elite golfer. It offers something for everyone and I think that's a wonderful fit for golfers."

Hurdzan and Fry created several interesting puzzles for golfers to solve. One of them is Meadow's seventh hole, a par four that plays to a maximum of 336 yards and 295 from the middle set of markers.

The hole was designed to play as a drivable par. It doglegs almost 90 degrees left near the putting surface,

The big hitter might be tempted to cut the dogleg but there is a bunker protecting the left side of the putting surface. The shorter hitter or more conservative strategist must contend with a bunker on the right side 110 yards from home.

Meadow's ninth hole is one of the most picturesque on the property. It's a par five that maxes out at 577 yards (520 from the middle tees) that plays uphill to the clubhouse. The player must clear an environmentally sensitive area on the tee shot, then avoid the lake to the left in the second-shot landing area.

The Lake Nine's third hole (the 12th during the WAPL) is a devilish par three that can lead to salvation or sorrow. It plays to a maximum of 174 yards and was listed at 132 for the WAPL although at one point during that event the USGA had the hole playing to just over 100 yards.

Wind is often a factor at this hole; the player gets a sense they're playing a British links course. The bunker guarding the front left portion of the green must be avoided at all costs.

The Lake's ninth hole is the finale for most players and perhaps the most memorable hole on the site.

The par five plays to a maximum of 525 yards; most visitors will play it at 471 yards. The hole plays uphill and the player must deal with an environmentally restricted area that crosses the fairway 170 yards from the green.

Many players will choose to lay up short of the fescue; in any case, it's particularly important here to leave the ball below the hole. Not doing so can lead to big problems on the treacherous putting surface.

In addition to its 27 regulation holes, Neshanic Valley also features a learning center that includes hitting stations on both ends, along with chipping areas, practice bunkers and a 16,000 square-foot putting green. It also includes a nine-hole short course.

Williams, who recently took a job as the women's golf coach at St. Francis of Pennsylvania, her alma mater, says Neshanic Valley offers something for everyone.

“It’s amazing,” she says. “I wish this had existed for me growing up, because it offers young golfers an opportunity to play an elite course with daily-fee access. It has a world-class range where they can hone their skills at an affordable price. That’s something that helps everybody.”

Williams says facilities like Neshanic Valley contribute to the growth of the game.

“Different groups of kids that haven’t been exposed to golf have the chance to come out to places like this and just fall in love with the game,” she says.

“It’s unbelievable.

“Private clubs really only reach a certain demographic. Places like this offer a variety of things to everyone.”

For more information about Neshanic Valley Golf Course, go to:

www.neshanicvalleygolf.com/golf/golf.htm



9th Hole

Susanin Wins Philadelphia Junior Title

Jamie Susanin of Overbrook scored a 4-and-2 win over Nicole Mischler of Philadelphia Cricket to win the 87th Philadelphia Junior Girls Championship at Old York Road Country Club.

Susanin, a senior at Radnor High, qualified for the PIAA state tournament last fall.

She did not have to go past the 16th hole while winning her three matches,.

Quarterfinals

Nicole Mischler (Philadelphia Cricket) def. Julia Curley (Philadelphia Country) 20 holes; Katie Dunpny (North Hills) def. Maggie Schoeller (Huntingdon Valley) 2 and 1; Jamie Susanin (Overbrook) def. Meagan Bonner (Tavistock) 5 and 4; Cara Basso (Whitford) def. Reilly Sadowl (Huntingdon Valley) 10 and 8.

Semifinals

Mischler def. Dunphy 5 and 4; Susanin def. Basso 4 and 2.

Championship

Susanin def. Mischler 4 and 2

Medalist

Julia Curley: 82

Sheldon Wins Massachusetts Women’s Amateur

Claire Sheldon from The Country Club defeated Tracy Martin (Butter Brook Golf Club) 2 and 1 to win the Massachusetts Women’s Amateur Championship at Brae Burn Country Club.

Earlier in the day Sheldon bested Katie Nelson (Cyprian Keys) 1 up in one semifinal, while Nelson defeated Tara Joy Connolly of Cohasset in 19 holes in the other.

Chen Claims NJSGA Junior Girls

Alice Chen put together two solid rounds of golf to roll to a 10-shot win at the 58 New Jersey State Golf Association’s Junior Girls Championship at Jumping Brook.

Chen, who plays out of Neshanic Valley golf Course, put together rounds of 71-76 to finish the two-day, 36-hole test at 3-over par 147.

Her closest challengers, Abby Lim of Overpeck and Anina Ku of Basking Ridge finished at 157. Kelsey Solan of Burlington Country Club was fourth at 161. Chen, who reached match play at the U.S. Women’s Amateur Public Links in June, opened with a 1-under par 71 that put her 10 shots in front of Lin after 18 holes.

Alice Chen (Neshanic Valley)	71-76—147
Abby Lin (Overpeck)	81-76—157
Anina Ku (Basking Ridge)	78-79—157
Kelsey Solan (Burlington)	82-79—161
Kelly Sim (Royce Brook)	87-75—162
Christina Parcels (Baltusrol)	84-81—165
Alyssas Schiera (Forsgate)	88-78—166
Alexandra Yang (Mercer Oaks)	86-81—167
Beth Bohny (Becaon Hill)	83-84—167
Sarah Kokotajlo (Mountainview)	83-86—169
Kenaida Mills (Neshamic Valley)	85-85—170
Kaitie Veasey (Rumson)	88-84—172
Racquel Zurick (Mountainview)	85-87—172
Alexandra Baginski (Francis Byrne)	81-80—173
Katie Edelblut (Trenton)	82-91—173

Pester and Hickey Win WNJGA Event

Tracy Pester of Morris County Country Club and Liz Hickey from Spring Lake combined for a 4-over par 79 to win the Mary Twiggs Memorial Tournament at Fairmount Country Club in Chatham, New Jersey. Val DePiro and Suzy Walsh from Montclair took second in the better-ball event with an 81 on a match of cards.

Maerz Wins NJSGA Women's Public Links Title

Noelle Maerz of Hyatt Hills Golf Club shot a 3-over par 73 to win the NJSGA Women's Public Links Championship at Knob Hill Golf Club. She finished two shots clear of Cathleen Marquis of Pinch Brook, who shot a 75. Courtney Kling of Hominy Hill and Karen Hansard of Neshanic Valley both finished at 4-over par 76.

Noelle Maerz (Hyatt Hills)	73
Cathleen Marquis (Pinch Brook)	75
Courtney Kling (Hominy Hill)	75
Karen Hansard (Neshanic Valley)	76
Christine Kim (Pinch Brook)	77
Joanna Kim (Neshanic Valley)	77
Kelly Platt (Mercer Oaks)	78
Miki Meltzer (Pinch Brook)	79
Joy Passalacqua (Pinch Brook)	80
Ellie Yum (Heron Glen)	81
Elizabeth Kunesch	81
Eleanor Berry (WGA of NJ)	81
Lorraine Doi (Suneagles)	82
Alexandra Baginski (Francis Byrne)	85
Jane Kuhfuss (Rolling Greens)	85
Kristina Wagner (Mattawang)	85

Young Wins Goss Round Robin

Donna Young of Springdale Golf Club bested Fran Gacos of Copper Hill on the first playoff hole to win the championship flight of the Elizabeth Goss Round Robin at Somerset Hills Country Club. It marked the sixth time Young has won the Nassau-style event, which combines better-ball and singles play over three days.

Young and Gacos each finished regulation play with 15 points.

Championship Robin Results

Donna Young	15
Fran Gacos	15
Judy Cuttone	12.5
Alicia Kapheim	11
Allison Kuckinski	10.5
Sue Dekalb	8.5
Maura Ballard	8
Sue Sardi	3.5

Timpson Wins Second Major

For the second time in a little over as year Phoebe Timpson is a WMGA major champion. Timpson, who plays out of Meadow Brook and Piping Rock, scored a one-shot victory over Ellen Oswald to claim the 35th Women's Metropolitan Golf Association Stroke Play Championship at the Rockaway Hunting Club.

Timpson put together rounds of 75-76 to complete 36 holes at 9-over par 151.

It's Timpson's second major title in 13 months. The reigning WMGA Player of the Year won the organization's Match Play Championship in June of 2011 and reached the Match Play finals again this year.

Ellen Oswald finished one stroke behind at 152, while Bridget Wilcox, Fran Gacos, and Cheryl Brayman were all 154.

Sharon Hoffman was alone in sixth place at 157.

Oswald opened with a 69 that gave her a six-stroke lead after the opening round.

She struggled early on Day Two however, with double bogeys at the second and third while playing her first eight holes in seven over par.

Timpson bogeyed two of the first four holes, but then reeled off five straight pars to make the turn at six over par for the tournament, two shots off the pace.

She took the lead for good when Oswald five-putted took a triple bogey at the par-5 12th but didn't realize she had come out on top until she finished her round.

"I didn't know how anybody was doing, she said. "I knew Fran was playing well and Cheryl was right there.

"I really didn't want to know. I just played each hole as it was."

Timpson, who didn't start playing golf until she was in her 20s, has had considerable success at the club level, winning a dozen championships of one sort or another, but has played some of the best golf of her life the past two years.

"I just try to play my game," she said. "I don't practice a lot. I guess it's just maturity."

The Stroke Play Championship is, by WMGA standards, a relatively new event. It was played for the first time in 1978. Gail Flanagan of Westchester Country Club has won the event five times, in 1991, '92, '95, '97, and 2004.

Phoebe Timpson	75-76—151
Ellen Oswald	69-83—152
Bridget Wilcox	77-77—154
Fran Gacos	77-77—154
Cheryl Brayman	77-77—154
Sharon Hoffman	77-80—157
Laura Algiero	80-78—158
LeeAnn Lewis	79-79—158
Scotland Preston	78-80—158
Alessandra Ricigliano	78-82—160
Barbara Paonessa	83-78—161
Alicia Kapheim	83-78—161
Laurie White	83-78—161
Catherine McEvoy	82-80—162
Michelle Stelben	81-81—162
Michelle Rosenhouse	78-84—162

Helen Bernstein	83-80—163
Sheila Torgan	82-81—163
Helen Stovell	80-83—163
Christine Silen	87-77—164
Gail Flanagan	87-77—164
Tracy Carroll	85-79—164
Becky Montgela	84-81—165
Christina Patracuolla	84-81—165
Elisabeth Muhr	85-81—166
Erica Schindel	80-86—166

Haines, Jones Take Barlow Cup

A familiar tandem found the winner's circle at the Women's Golf Association's Nonna Barlow Cup. Liz Haines and Lorraine Jones of Merion shot a 77 over the East Course at their home club to prevail in a four-way playoff. Peggy Ferrence and Susan Beebe Sardi of Cherry Valley, Victoria Abens and Desiree Headley of DuPont, and Lisa McGill and Alison Shoemaker of Sunnybrook joined the winners in the playoff after shooting better-ball 78s during regulation.

Meg Sorber and Sarah Coveney of North Hills shot 79 to miss the playoff by one shot.

It's the 10th Barlow Cup title for Haines and Jones who were technically the defending champions. They won the tournament the last time it was played in 2010; last year's event was cancelled because of rain. Their first came in 1994. Subsequent victories came in 1995, '98, '99, 2002, '04, '05, '07, and '10. Haines also won four other Barlow Cups between 1997 and '93, three with Nancy Porter and one with Meg Young.

The Barlow Cup is named for Nonna Barlow, one of the greatest players in the sport in the first two-plus decades of the 20th century. A nine-time Philadelphia Women's Amateur champion, she won virtually every major title available to her, except the U.S. Women's Amateur.

The Barlow Cup was first played in her honor in 1936.

Most of us remember the trials and tribulations of being a new golfer. In this feature new golfer Tia Preece shares her experiences.

Taking The Plunge

By Tia Preece

Intimidating. That's a word I hear so often when trying to get new golfers into the game.

It's true; this word halted my own first steps onto the golf course. So why step out of your comfort zone and push through to start playing golf? Everyone has different reasons for taking up the sport; my own goal was simply to enter into the social aspect of golf to broaden my horizons on many levels.

Some use golf as a way of networking; this was not my mindset however. I was looking at golf as a way to engage with my friends who were already playing. I was often being invited to play yet I always declined due to simply not knowing how. Once deciding I was ready to take the step to become a 'golfer' pushing through the different aspects of why I found golf so intimidating became the challenge.

People take up golf for many reasons; joining my group of friends' weekend golf game was at the top of my list. Identifying why you want to play golf is an important way to overcome the concerns one may have when stepping out onto the golf course for the first time.

Where to begin became an overwhelming challenge. My first attempt involved hitting the driving range with an old set of borrowed clubs, yet this did not go according to plan. Once I saw the amount of people out practicing away at the driving range. I failed to get out of the car. To help ease myself into the sport, I decided I needed proper lessons from a golf professional. After a few lessons I felt a little more confident about stepping onto the driving range solo for the first time. Remembering my initial attempt. this would normally have been a blow to anyone's confidence. However keeping my goal in mind I knew I had to overcome that intimidation issue that stopped me from getting out of the car in the first place. The lessons really helped my confidence and I soon

realized no one is out there looking at you to see what you are doing; everyone is focused on themselves and hitting that little golf ball into the air correctly. So I stepped out there as one of them, although I do sometimes take a look to see who is around to see how far they are hitting the ball.

After my first couple of times solo on the driving range a few of my girlfriends asked me to play a weekend round with them. The days leading up to that round I was terrified. Thankfully after my near attempt to back out and cancel they assured me that everyone would be patient and mindful of 'newbie' status as a 'golfer'.

This is important to note; stepping out on for your first round of golf on the course, do not have expectations of breaking a 100. It is more about learning how to become comfortable as a women golfer out on the course. This is what it was about for me. The missed fairways, the bunker shots, the countless putts; the sport transitioned from being a goal about just joining the social aspect to actually enjoying golf and having fun! By the time the 18 holes were over I was hooked; something that did not occur to me at my first lesson. Now, I play as much as I can on the weekends and be sure to hit the range once during the week to help improve my game.

Golf can, and should be, enjoyed. This is how I introduce the sport to new golfers, as a means to have fun. Yes, golf is intimidating but pushing through that issue is well worth it once you see the end result and excitement of making those long putts or chip shots. I began the sport thinking it was something that I could not ever do well; and my goal of joining friends on the weekend to play a round was my motivation to simply begin. Setting a goal for yourself will help you push through that intimidation factor, and before you know it you will be out there on the course as well.

Golf is not just a sport for a certain type of person, it's for everyone and people who've been immersed in the sport for years all realize everyone has to start somewhere. Supporting newcomers to the sport is not only a vital way to help the game's overall growth but you will soon be helping them to try and find a reason why they didn't join sooner!