

Women's Metropolitan Golf Association 112th Match Play Championship



(L to R) : Liliana Ruiz, Brigid Lamb, Helen Bernstein



(L to R) Liliana Ruiz and Fran Gacos



(L to R) : Fran Gacos and Alicia Kapheim

Liliana Ruiz Wins Her First Match Play Championship

The beautiful Canoe Brook Country Club was the host of our 112th Match Play Championship on June 9-12. The North Course provided an excellent challenge on June 9, when 38 of our Class A ladies attempted to qualify for the Championship or Sanford Cup flight. Rain was in the forecast early in the morning, but once the first few groups made the turn the clouds peeled away and the humidity rose. The best of the players were challenged by the course's narrow fairways cut through thick rough, strategically placed bunkers, and the need for accurate approach shots to very difficult greens. The end results - only two players shooting in the 70's. The cut-off for the Championship flight was set at 87, but with only one spot available and three players tied at 87, a playoff was necessary. Once the flights were established, Liliana Ruiz, low medalist with a 74, was the number one seed in the Championship and Sandy Jackson found herself as the top seed in the Sanford Cup flight.

Throughout the week there was intense play in both competitions, and come Friday, it was down to four players. Liliana Ruiz and Helen Bernstein, both first time finalist, vying for the Championship title and Sandy Jackson and Fran Gacos competing for the Sanford Cup.

In the Championship, we had a strong matchup between Liliana Ruiz, the number one seed, and Helen Bernstein, the number sixth seed. Helen was able to finish strong in her matches which all lasted at least 16 holes, and was focused on keeping her successful playing habits going. Liliana, who has been playing incredible golf lately, was on the 2015 winning Griscom Cup team and a main contributor to the team's first win since 2006. Liliana stayed red hot as she was able to finish the first 18 holes 8 up on Helen. When the second half of the match started after a short lunch break, Helen showed the tenacity of a British bull dog, never giving up during her comeback attempt. With Helen playing the first seven holes one-over par, she was able to trim Liliana's lead to 5 up. Unfortunately for Helen, Liliana prevailed and won her first Match Play Championship 7 & 6. As the number one seed in the Sanford Cup flight, Jackson knew the match was not going to be easy going against former Match Play Champion, Fran Gacos. On the other hand, Fran was going against the number one seed and could not get complacent in her match. Sandy started the match off by going 1 up and she kept her edge in the match until Fran took the last four holes of the front nine to go 3 up at the turn. Sandy continued to challenge Fran and battled her way to the 17th hole where Fran closed out the match to win the Sanford Cup 2 & 1.

The WMGA would like to give a special thank you to Brigid Lamb, past president of the WMGA, who was the referee for the Championship and Canoe Brook Country Club for its wonderful hospitality and assistance in making the event such a success. Congratulations to all the participants for a great week, and we look forward to another flourishing Championship next year!



Liliana Ruiz with her caddie Mickey



Match Play Champion, Liliana Ruiz, blasts a drive on the 16th hole during her first round match-up.



Runner-up Helen Bernstein with her caddie Preston



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Women's Metropolitan Golf Association

Results

Championship

Sanford

Previous Winners

- 2014 *Ellen Oswald, Westchester*
- 2013 *Ellen Oswald, Westchester*
- 2012 *Frances Gacos, Copper Hill*
- 2011 *Phoebe Timpson, Meadow Brook*
- 2010 *Susan DeKalb, Bella Vista*