

Forest Akers West Hosting 46th Michigan Girls' Junior State Amateur

EAST LANSING – The Forest Akers golf facilities on the campus of Michigan State University are hosting the Michigan Girls' Junior State Amateur for the 10th time in the 45 years of the championship, this year on the West course starting Monday.

The championship for the top age 18-and-under golfers in the state combines stroke play and match play with 36-holes of stroke play Monday and Tuesday to determine match play brackets in the overall championship division and a 15-and-under division.

The low 16 scorers after stroke play advance to match play with two rounds Wednesday and Thursday determining a champion. The 15-and-under division has an eight-golfer match play bracket.

Forest Akers West is home to the successful Michigan State golf teams. It is one of two courses at the facility (East and West), both of which were redesigned by Michigan State alumnus and highly regarded golf course designer Arthur Hills in 1992.

The West plays from 5,278 yards to 7,013 yards with five tee positions and hosts the Big Ten home competition for the Spartans.

The players in the field, 18-and-under and not yet college students or golfers, are familiar with the Forest Akers properties, which have hosted several GAM junior events, the Michigan Women's Amateur Championship as well as high school state championship tournaments over the years.

Bryan Harris is the PGA golf professional and general manager at Forest Akers and Ben Keeler is the golf course superintendent. Learn more at golf.msu.edu.

Alena Li of Okemos, stroke play medalist a year ago and a semifinalist in match play, is in the field of 75 golfers again this year, as is former 15-and-under winner Mia Melendez of Ann Arbor, and Macie Elzinga of Byron Center, who was a semifinalist in the recent Michigan Women's Amateur Championship.

The championship has a storied past with winners like Michigan Golf Hall of Fame member and LPGA Tour player Suzy Green-Roebuck, LPGA Tour player Stacy Snider and current LPGA Epson Tour player and 2022 Michigan Women's Open winner Sarah White.

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