Trost & Esh Earn MSGA State Junior Titles
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

The first MSGA state tournament was conducted this summer - the State Junior Championship - at The Briarwood Club in Billings. A number of talented golfers from around the Treasure State competed and posted impressive results.

**Boys:** Caleb Trost of Billings claimed a victory in the 16-17 age group (27 competitors). Trost overcame a five-shot deficit heading into the final round and posted 75-70, 145, to earn low honors in his age group. Joseph Potonjak of Bigfork, the first round leader, came in second, one shot back after rounds of 70-76, 146. Joey Moore of Billings finished third 74-74, 148. Colton Hudson was fourth at 73-81, 154.

In the 14-15 age group (13 competitors) Paul O’Neill carded rounds of 76-78, 154, to earn a victory. He was followed by second place finisher Jack Johnston 76-84, 160. Bucky Crippen (83, 79) and J.R. Small (84, 78) tied for third at 162.

In the 13 and under age group (14 competitors), Jordon Verge’s 86-76, 162, edged out Conor Walsh 83-80, 163, by one shot for a victory. Carson Hackman 84-80, 164, and Tyler Avery 86-88, 174, rounded out the top four.

**Girls:** Kylie Esh of Ronan cruised to a double-digit victory in the 16-17 age group (15 competitors) after firing rounds of 76-79, ...Continued on the next page
STATE JUNIORS ... from previous page

155. Hannah Rosanova of Bozeman was steady at 83-83, 166, to claim second, followed by Kameryn Bayse 91-88, 179 (third), and Casey Babinecz 91-90, 181 (fourth).

Tricia Joyce 89-87, 176, brought home the title in the 14-15 age group (11 competitors) followed by Emily Garden 95-92, 187 (second), Skyler Martin 97-99, 196 (third), and Laurel Ward 103-96, 199 (fourth).

Finally, a scorecard playoff determined the champion in the 13 and under girls division (8 competitors) as Carrie Carpenter 107-94, 201, rallied to tie Macee Greenwood 101-100, 201, and gain a victory after going to the card. Kadence Fischer 107-98, 205, and Marcella Mercer 107-102, 209, rounded out the top four.

In total, 84 players competed.

Thanks to The Briarwood for hosting the juniors!

Junior Teams Set
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Following the MSGA State Juniors, the following competitors were selected to represent Montana in upcoming events:

Girls Junior America’s Cup -
July 25-28 at Modesto, California’s Del Rio Country Club:
Kylie Esh, Hannah Rosanova, Tricia Joyce, Kameryn Bayse

Boys Junior America’s Cup -
July 24-29 at Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico’s Guadalajara Country Club:
Ryggs Johnston, Caleb Trost, Joey Moore, Joseph Potkonjak

Girls MT-Alberta Jr Ryder Cup -
August 8-10 in Whitefish:
17-Year-olds -
Hannah Rosanova, Casey Babinecz
16-Year-olds -
Kylie Esh, Kameryn Bayse
15-Year-olds -
Emily Garden, Tricia Joyce

Boys MT-Alberta Jr Ryder Cup -
August 8-10 in Whitefish:
17-Year-olds -
Caleb Trost, Joseph Potkonjak
16-Year-olds -
Ryggs Johnston, Joey Moore
15-Year-olds -
Jack Johnston, Paul O’Neil

IMG Academy “Junior World”
Qualifiers- July 10-15, San Diego, CA
(Based on Day 1 State Juniors’ Score):
Boys: Joseph Potkonjak
Girls: Kylie Esh

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Cindy Stein, 6/22/16 (2nd!), Whitefish Lake GC, Hole #15, 121 yds, 5 Hbd
Heather Mull, 6/17/16, Whitefish Lake GC, Hole #6, 117 yds, 6 Wood
Robert Nisbet, 6/14/16, Lake Hills GC, Hole #14, 161 yds, 6 Iron
Steve Lavin, 6/13/16, Buffalo Hill GC, Hole #9, 179 yds, 22 Deg. Hybrid
Paul Zeeck, 6/13/16, Northern Pines GC, Hole #16, 146 yds, 7 Iron
Cindy Stein, 6/11/16, Whitefish Lake GC, Hole #6, 120 yds, 6 Hybrid
Gary Ugrin, 6/5/16, Lake Hills GC, Hole #4, 157 yds, 6 Iron
Bob Galbraith, 6/4/16, Whitefish Lake GC, Hole #6, 140 yds, 6 Iron
Mark Slade, 6/3/16, Meadow Lark CC, Hole #16, 191 yds, 5 Iron
Robert Marcuvitz, 5/30/16, Whitefish Lake GC, Hole #4, 167 yds, 6 Wd
Crispy Mills, 5/28/16, Whitefish Lake GC, Hole #6, 110 yds, 7 Iron
Steve Boone, 5/25/16, Whitefish Lake GC, Hole #4, 167 yds, 7 Iron
Jack Johnston, 3/30/16, Missoula CC, Hole #2, 176 yds, 6 Iron
Carol Solberg, 5/28/16, Cottonwood Hills GC, Hole #4, 115 yds, 6 Iron
Reed Meschke, 5/8/13, Exchange City GC, Hole #3, 142 yds, PW

Stetzner Wins 2016 State Match Play Tournament
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Anaconda’s Caleb Stetzner has had his stellar game tested at many levels during his junior career. He was victorious at the Class A level as a junior and runner-up this season in Class B to close out his high school career.

Stetzner is an Old Works Amateur Champion, has competed on numerous MSGA teams, and is headed to MSU-Billings to play for the Yellow Jackets. Before beginning his collegiate career, Stetzner added another title by winning the Montana State Match Play Tournament.

The 18-year-old Stetzner defeated 35-year-old Drew Vanyo of Bozeman 3 and 2 in the championship match at Green Meadow Country Club in Helena. The tournament included several of the top amateurs in Montana: two-time defending tournament champ and University of Idaho standout Ryan Porch, Utah State’s Eli Rogers, and Colorado State’s Logan Iverson, to name a few, but it was the freshman-to-be that came away with the hardware.

Following stroke-play competition to qualify and seed, Stetzner garnered the No. 2 seed. Birdies on holes 7, 8, and 11, helped to knock off the fourth seeded Vanyo.

"I felt comfortable on the course on the first day, but once I saw the bracket I felt it would be very tough to win," Stetzner said. “Considering the field, this is probably the biggest win I’ve had.”

Ninth-seeded Jim Bob Coleman of Billings won the consolation championship, defeating Easton Enott of Great Falls 4 and 3.
Crippen & Medley Victors at 4th of July Tournament
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

One of the most beloved tournaments in Montana reached its 80th birthday as the Earl Hunt Memorial 4th of July Tournament was played at Whitefish Lake Golf Club. Both the women’s and men’s championships winning margins were razor thin.

Missoula’s Sadie Crippen began the week with sterling rounds of 72-71 and finished with 78, but a 221 total was good enough – one shot clear of her sister Maggie Crippen and Hailey Hoagland of Butte at 222. Crippen, who concluded her collegiate career at the University of Montana this year, was given a run by fellow Grizzlies - sister Maggie, Hoagland, and Teigan Avery. Avery of Kalispell was in contention at 223 finishing fourth and Haylee Folkvord of Bozeman (MSU-Bobcat) rounded out the top-five at 227.

Scottsdale, Arizona’s Andrew Medley channeled the heat from the Valley of the Sun closing with a birdie on hole 17 and a 40-foot eagle on 18, to capture the Earl Hunt Memorial finishing his three rounds at 213…one shot better than Mark Mance (Whitefish) and two clear of Rob Bergeson (Billings) and Ryggs Johnston (Libby) at 215. Medley improved one shot each round in Whitefish, 72-71-70, to pick up a second Hunt victory (winner in 2012).

Whitefish’s Carol Lilly won the inaugural men’s senior title in impressive fashion. Lilly went wire-to-wire with a 209 total (-5) and bested runner-up Keith Woznesensky of Columbia Falls, 72-71-70, to pick up a second Hunt victory (winner in 2012).

**MEN**
North Course (Par: 72; Yardage: 3,429)
Final Round

Andrew Medley Scottsdale, Ariz. 72-71-70—213
Mark Mance Whitefish 70-71-73—214
Rob Bergeson Billings 72-73-70—215
Rygg’s Johnston Libby 71-74-71—217
Sam Krause La Quinta, Calif. 67-77-73—217
Sean Benson Billings 74-73-70—217
Ryan Porch Kalispell 70-73-75—218
Craig Hurfert Hamilton 71-76-71—218
Connor Ruover Whitefish 71-76-71—218
Kyle Mofsdell Whitefish 73-71-74—218
JT Bloomer Boise, Idaho 71-79-69—218
Art Doorn Whitefish 73-72-75—220
Byron Olson Houston, Texas 74-74-73—221
Joseph Potkonjak Bigfork 78-68-76—222
Jim Bob Coleman Billings 74-75-74—223
Justin Miller Phoenix, Ariz. 71-70-83—224
Kyle Sheppard Havre 73-75-76—224
Sean Ramsbacher Missoula 74-77-73—224
Connor Hausauer Bozeman 73-72-80—225
Cory Mehl Seattle, Wash. 73-74-79—227
Bob Hasquet Missoula 74-78-74—227
Tate Tatom Gallatin Gateway 74-78-77—229
Brad Cox Leithbridge, Alberta 79-74-78—231
Darren Rowell Castle Rock, Wash. 80-70-84—234
Loy Sullivan Calgary, Alberta 74-79-82—235

Waldemar Maya Plano, Texas 75-77-81—233
Jim Schaible Kalispell 77-76-80—233
Frank Sutton Calgary, Alberta 79-78-77—234
Dave Streeter Whitefish 81-79-77—237
Ramer Holtan Mercer Island, Wash. 74-83-82—239
Kevin Linsey Whitefish 79-79-81—239
Chris Vidulich Kalispell 80-71-79—240
Larry Schwenze Cda, Idaho 75-86-81—242
Brian Cripe Whitefish 79-86-79—244
Dan Lieberg Helena 82-74-84—244
John Zaisz Whitefish 78-82-86—246
Bob Sandman Columbia Falls 82-84-85—251
Dann Rohrer Libby 82-94-86—252
Bob Slaven Polson 82-89-89—260
Brent Applegren Whitefish 84-88-91—263

**WOMEN**
South Course (Par: 71; Yardage: 2,541)
Final Round

Sadie Crippen Missoula 72-71-78—221
Maggie Crippen Missoula 68-78-76—222
Hailey Hoagland Butte 75-69-78—222
Teigan Avery Kalispell 80-74-69—223
Haylee Folkvord Bozeman 73-79-75—227
Marcy Holt Spokane, Wash. 77-81-74—232
Carly McNaughton Leithbridge, Alta. 74-81-77—232
Coral Schulz Whitefish 79-76-79—234
Shealyn Hafer Butte 78-79-85—235
Kasia Kazmierczyk Santa Monica, Calif. 82-82-76—240
Morgan O’Neill Laurel 79-82-80—241
Kathy Dodd Whitefish 79-89-75—243
Kasia Kazmierczyk Santa Monica, Calif. 82-82-76—240
Morgan O’Neill Laurel 79-82-80—241
Kathy Dodd Whitefish 79-89-75—243
Karen Jacobson Whitefish 82-85-77—244
Kasia Kazmierczyk Santa Monica, Calif. 82-82-76—240
Morgan O’Neill Laurel 79-82-80—241
Kathy Dodd Whitefish 79-89-75—243
Karen Jacobson Whitefish 82-85-77—244
Katherine Wills Missoula 80-86-79—245
Donna Weblage Milk River, Alta. 84-77-44—241
Bobbie Lacklen Libby 82-87-86—255
Jody Fee Kalispell 83-95-84—262
Marcia Reimers Missoula 86-90-87—263
Sandy Haydu Edmonton, Alta. 84-91-95—270

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Sadie Crippen

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Johnston Third at 99th Western Junior Championship
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Ryggs Johnston of Libby won his previous two starts at the Montana State Junior Tournaments, but this year, the young talent was unable to compete by virtue of invitation to the prestigious Western Junior Championship.

While Johnston would have liked to defend his title, he did not disappoint on the national scene, finishing with the low final round score of 66 (-6) to finish third overall.

The Western Junior, held at Red Run Golf Club in Royal Oak, Michigan (near Detroit), invited nearly 60 of the best junior players in the nation to test their skills among their high school peers.

Johnston, one of the youngest competitors at age 16, was consistent with rounds of 72-72-71 on the par-72 course, but saved his best for the final round with a scorching six-under-par 66, to move up the leaderboard and finish alone in third place. He was one shot behind Trevor Brown of Austin, Texas, and three shots behind the champion, Sean Maruyama, of Los Angeles, California.

The Western Junior’s criteria for selection includes, but is not limited to, miscellaneous national rankings, major tournament finishes, high school/college performance, and professional recommendations. There are no qualifying tournaments for the Western Junior. All players will be entered by exemption or invitation by the Selection Committee.

The Western Junior has produced notable champions currently on the PGA Tour such as Jim Furyk, Rickie Fowler, and Hunter Mahan. Next year’s Western Junior will be held at Park Ridge Country Club (Park Ridge, Illinois).

June Tournament News
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Old Works Amateur
Sean Benson of Billings took home the Old Works Amateur Title by nearly double-digits, with rounds of 75-68, 143. The Montana Tech sophomore to-be had the only red numbers of the tournament, with his final round 68 (-4). Ross Bartell 75-77, 152, was runner-up, and Cory Donahue 82-73, 155, finished third.

Oilfield Invitational
Brady Kirkeby of Helena captured his first Oilfield Invitational Title in a playoff with Ron Ramsbacher of Missoula. Kirkeby had the low final round of 74 on a gusty day at Marias Valley Golf and Country Club in Shelby.

Kirkeby’s two-day total of 148 tied Ramsbacher and then promptly made par on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff to notch the win. James Russell (Shelby) finished third at 149, followed by Ross Bartell (Great Falls), and Sean Gilligan (Shelby) 150.

McIver’s Ducks’ 2016 NCAA National Champions
The University of Oregon won the school’s first men’s national golf championship, with a 3-2 match play victory over the University of Texas. The Ducks went on an improbable run, coming into the tournament ranked 22nd in the nation. Billings’ Brandon McIver now can add collegiate national...Continued on the next page
TOURNAMENTS ... from previous page

McIver, a senior and decorated college and amateur golfer, was a key starter on the Ducks’ roster during his entire time in Eugene.

In a qualifier for the NCAA Tucson Regional, McIver lost in a playoff for the fifth and final spot on the active team to roommate Zach Foushee. Foushee earned a victory literally by showing up, as his match vs. Beau Hossler was decided by Hossler conceding due to injury twenty minutes before the match.

Eugene Country Club played host to the tournament and the Ducks were able to celebrate with a raucous crowd of supporters and teammates who contributed to a historic season for the University of Oregon.

During his time career, not only did McIver qualify for the 2014 U.S. Open, but he was twice a competitor (2013-14) at the U.S. Amateur and received Second Team All-Pac-12 honors in 2015, in addition to All-Region West Team accolades and academic Pac-12 honors in ‘14 and ‘15.

USGA AND THE R&A PUBLISH PAPER ON DRIVING DISTANCE IN PROFESSIONAL GOLF

The USGA and The R&A have published a research document that reports important facts on driving distance in professional golf. Supporting data comes from seven tours, including PGA Tour data beginning in 1968.

In 2002, the USGA and The R&A co-authored the Joint Statement of Principles, which confirmed their commitment to the fundamental notion that skill, not technology, should be the primary determinant of success in the game.

The Joint Statement acknowledged the benefits of equipment technology for golf, but noted that any further significant increases in hitting distances at the highest level were undesirable.

Since that time, the USGA and The R&A have continued to monitor equipment technology’s effect on the game, and considered the effects of other factors, such as course setup, athleticism, and coaching.

When appropriate, new Rules have been introduced after discussions with equipment manufacturers and other stakeholders, in accordance with the Equipment Rulemaking Procedures produced in 2011.

“Hitting distance is, and has long been, a constant subject of healthy and spirited debate in golf,” said Mike Davis, executive director/CEO of the USGA. “We want everyone in the game to have access to the facts, to better understand the decision-making process and the research we use to ensure that our game is both enjoyable and sustainable for future generations.”

“I believe it is important in terms of good governance and healthy for the sport to achieve greater transparency on key issues such as driving distance,” said Martin Slumbers, chief executive of The R&A. “We have decided to publish this report on distance data and will do so each year in the future. This is clearly a frequently debated topic in golf which elicits strong views. By publishing the data we can help to inform the debate and ensure reliable information is available.”


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The next drawing will be held this month -- winners announced on the MSGA website!

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Chip in with your league group, your workmates, or your friends, and buy a ticket together. Get creative! Have a drawing of your own for the winner, or alternate who can win each month.

With only 300 tickets sold, and 2 winners a month, your chances are good for a return on the cost of the ticket.

And, ultimately, it goes toward a great cause... our kids, the future golfers of Montana.

Don’t wait! The next drawing will be held soon!