



IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST, 31ST 2017

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NEBRASKA JUNIOR GOLFERS ADVANCE TO REGIONAL QUALIFIER OF THE DRIVE, CHIP AND PUTT CHAMPIONSHIP

Lincoln, NE – Six Nebraska Junior Golfers will be sharpening their games over the next couple of weeks in preparation for the Regional Qualifier of the Drive, Chip, and Putt Championship on Saturday, September 16th at famed Southern Hills Country Club, in, Tulsa, Oklahoma. These junior golfers are in pursuit of their dreams of advancing to the Finals next April 1, 2018 at Augusta National Golf Club.

Representing the Girls for Nebraska will be Nicole Kolbas (Lincoln) and Kaitlyn Hanna (Omaha). Nicole took 1st place in the Girls 12-13 Division with a total score of 133 (Drive:32/Chip:36/Putt:65). Kaitlyn also took 1st place in the Girls 14-15 Division with a total score of 125 (Drive:48/Chip:27/Putt:50). Hanna competed in the championship at Augusta in 2016.

Four Boys will be representing Nebraska at Southern Hills Country Club. These players are Henry Stempson (Lincoln), Thomas Bryson (Lincoln), Porter Topp (Omaha), and Brayden Schram (Hastings). Henry Stempson took 2nd place in the Boys 7-9 Division with at total score of 90 (Drive:23/Chip:17/Putt:50). Thomas Bryson won 1st place in the boys 10-11 Division with a total score of 134 (Drive:48/Chip:45/Putt:41). Porter Topp placed 2nd in the Boys 12-13 Division with a total score of 127 (Drive:45/Chip:127/Putt:65). Brayden Schram also placed 2nd in the Boys 14-15 Division with a total score of 121 (Drive:36/Chip:55/Putt:30).

There were 6 Nebraska Junior Golfers who played well enough to be alternates. These players are Natasha Kolbas (Lincoln), Eden Larson (Lincoln), Kate Strickland (Lincoln), Prestin Vilai (Grand Island), Luke Gutschewski (Elkhorn), and Colton Stock (Omaha)

This is the fifth year of the Drive, Chip & Putt Championship, a free nationwide junior golf development competition aimed at growing the game by focusing on the three fundamental skills employed in golf. It was established in 2013 as a joint initiative of the Masters Tournament, United States Golf Association, and PGA of America. For more information about the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship, including official rules, registration, and ticket information, please visit www.DriveChipandPutt.com

About the Nebraska Junior Golf Tour (NJGT)

The Nebraska Golf Association and the Nebraska PGA joined forces in 2009 to bring young golfers the state's premier junior golf organization - the Nebraska Junior Golf Tour (NJGT). The NJGT annually offers roughly 80 competitive golf events for junior golfers beginning at the age of seven continuing through the summer following a golfer's graduation from high school. The series of competitions will include tournaments and events for every level of golfer from TEAM GOLF for the beginner looking to learn or improve, premier tournaments for the more accomplished player and two-day championships ranked by Junior Golf Scoreboard.

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