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7-Up finals quench title thirst for golfers

By James Weber • jweber@nky.com • July 31, 2009

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He needed one clutch shot, and he got it, although he didn't know at the time how clutch it was.

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Josh Moorman's three-foot birdie putt on the last hole secured the boys 16-18 age group championship of the 7-Up Junior Golf Tour July 28.

Moorman shot a 148 over two rounds, one at Lassing Pointe in Union and the second at Boone Links in Burlington.

"It means a lot because I really hadn't won anything prior to this year," he said. "I won two smaller tournaments, and I had won one tournament here. This is the first time I've ever contended in the tour championship. It was nice to finally come through."



Zoom

James Weber/!

Three local winners pose with their championship trop from the 7-Up Junior Golf Tour July 28 at Boone Links. Front row, from left: Kia Bakunawa and Paul Huber. Back row, middle: Josh Moorman. Owen County's Krista Pov is far left in back; Cold Spring's Drew McDonald is far right.

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The Crescent Springs resident will be a junior at **Covington Catholic** and plans to be on the varsity team for the first time.

He persevered in a tight battle in the tour finals by focusing on his own game.

"I used to always want to know what everyone else was doing," he said. "This year I took a new approach and focused on my own game. I just focused on making par on every hole and getting a couple of birdies."

That approach helped take some pressure off on the last hole, when he was tied with playing partner Steve Rickels of **Holy Cross** but didn't realize it.

Moorman hit a bad drive to start the hole, but hit his second shot to within three feet and made the putt. Rickels had missed from 10 feet.

Kia Bakunawa, an incoming senior at **Notre Dame** Academy, pulled out a one-stroke in the girls division over **Owen County's** Krista Power.

Bakunawa also didn't know the final score until after the round was over.

"It's been a big goal of mine to win this," she said. "I just tried to do my best. I didn't know if I could win it. I was keeping (Power's) score but I didn't add it up until later. It makes me real nervous, and not adding it up really helped because it kept away some of the pressure."

Bakunawa birdied 15 and 17 to rally for the win. She is looking forward to her first varsity season for the Pandas.

In the boys 11 and under division, Paul Huber of St. Pius in **Edgewood** won by two strokes with a 123 over 27 holes.

Huber was the only first-day leader in the five divisions to keep the lead at the end.

Full results:

Annika (girls): Kia Bakunawa 167, Krista Power 168, Morgan Larison 172, Katie-Scarlett Skinner 174, Angela Pugliano 178, Kristin Smith 179. Missed cut: Kelsey Kennedy 93, Abby Ruberg 93, Lauren Vice 97, Christian Arn, 101, Sydney Swingos 101, Sydney Scheben 102, Haley Hart 120.

Boys 11 and under: **Paul Huber** 123, Michael Bracken 125, Tyler Lippert 140, Griffin Flesch 142, Jacob Vrolijk 145, Ryan Clements 147, Grant Garrison 156, Leighton Schrand 161.

Boys 12-13: Drew McDonald 158, Logan Gamm 159, Zach Adams 161, Merik Berling 163, Brett Bauereis 169, Parker Harris 174. Missed cut: Jeff Lynn 86, Timmy Fritz 86, Jackson Frame 89, Daniel Lee 93.

Boys 14-15: Blake **Hamilton** 151, Seattle Stein 153, Adam Millson 154, Blake Adkins 166, Alex Scanlon 167, Tim Livingood 167. Missed cut: Lane Weaver 85, Carter Hibbard 86, Bradley Litzinger 86, Austin Molen 88,

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Bryan Kraus 88, Adam Ditzel 94.

Boys 16-18: Josh Moorman 148, Steve Rickels 149, Phoenix Ramsey 151, Andrew Kinman 152, Ryan Broughton 153, Michael Petering 156. Missed cut: Jordan Wyatt 79, Blake Trimpe 80, Alex Ammerman 82, David Schuh 85, Scott Rowe 86, Adam Dietz 97.



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