

Schremmer, Kyrinis open as Doherty Medalists

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By Gary Curreri

When Scarlett Schremmer walked up the first tee at the 91st annual Ione D. Jones/Doherty Women's Amateur Championship on Monday, she was admittedly a bit nervous.

The 17-year-old from Birmingham, Alabama was paired with University of Florida sophomore Maisie Filler (Palm Beach Gardens) and four-time USGA Mid-Am champion Meghan Stasi (Oakland Park). Stasi is also a two-time Doherty champion.

Schremmer finished Monday as medalist after carding a 2-under par 69 at the Coral Ridge Country Club in Fort Lauderdale.

"I was actually a little bit nervous coming into today because I was playing with two really good players," Schremmer grinned. "I told my mom on the first hole that this was a good opportunity to see what their games look like and maybe try and impress them a little bit and they'll think that I am good at golf."

"Being medalist is definitely a nice thing and shows me that the hard work I put in today on the course will pay off," she said. "Going into match play, anything can happen. I am just putting today behind me and go into tomorrow with the confidence to go around the course a little bit better. It is definitely motivating to play with other good players. I definitely appreciate the game and the work that they put in >

Schremmer is making her debut in the tournament. She knew the course would be flat like most other clubs in Florida. She also had a little extra motivation as her mother previously played in the event.

"It is pretty wide open," Schremmer said. "I knew the course would kind of fit my game. I felt the greens were rolling really, really well. They are really quick and faster than my home course. That was a bit of an adjustment today and yesterday in my practice round."

"Today I woke up and wasn't feeling that great, but I just took it as a practice round," she said. "I had no expectations, I just played it like another practice round and see where I land for match play."

Schremmer, a junior Rolex All-American this year for AJGA, and is also the Player of the Year for Alabama, said she is a good ball striker, and the rest of her games follow suit.

Defending Amateur champion Morgan Miller said she was battling a cold, however, she made it through qualifying and shot a 77 to finish in a tie for seventh place.

“Today wasn’t the best round of golf,” said Miller, 19, a sophomore at the University of Colorado. “Putting was great, chipping was fantastic. I got a lot of up and downs, which helped me a lot.

“My irons were tough today,” she added. “I hit every fairway. It just wasn’t great. I didn’t strike it well in the fairways. I found ways to get it up and down and that’s what you have to do in golf. You just have to make the cut.”

Miller said she was bothered somewhat by being sick, but said she had to fight through it.

“You’ve got to,” Miller said.

Miller finished with a 73, while Ashley Zagers (Oldsmar), Kayla Bryant (Boca Raton), and Julia Zigrossi (Spencersport, NY) shot 75s. Stasi carded a 76.

Bryant is fresh off her five-stroke win at the Junior Orange Bowl International Golf Tournament at the Biltmore Golf Club last week. It is her first time playing in the Doherty.

“I just wanted to play my best, and whatever happens, happens,” said Bryant, who shot 6-under total and had three rounds in the 60s. “I played super solid against some really great international players (at the Junior Orange Bowl).

“I got off to a really good start today,” Bryant added. “Then the wind started to pick up. It’s okay. I know it is tough for everyone.”

Defending senior champion Shelly Haywood carved out a 74 to finish a shot behind Judith Kyrinis, of Thornhill, Canada in the senior flight. Haywood needed 20 holes to beat out Kyrinis in last year’s tournament.

“I played well today,” Haywood said. “I didn’t really make a lot of mistakes. I didn’t make a lot of birdie putts, but I hit a lot of greens. With the wind today, that was all I was looking to do.

“The scores aren’t going to be low because of the wind,” she continued. “I just played pretty solid today. The wind really doesn’t bother me. You just have to pick the right club. It felt good to get today out of the way and move on to match play.”

Haywood is looking forward to this year’s Doherty.

“I actually feel really good,” Haywood said. “I’ve been really working hard on my game and my short game and playing a lot and I feel like I’m in a really good position to defend but you know anything can happen in the match play portion, so I’m just taking it literally one step at a time. I’m trying not to get ahead of myself.”

Adrienne MacLean (Tequesta) aced the Par-3, 125-yard fifth hole with an 8-iron. It was her 11th hole-in-one and ninth official hole-in-one. She also had two official aces this summer, within two weeks of one another – one at the Tequesta Country Club and the other at a country club in North Carolina. She wound up shooting an 82 in qualifying.

“The wind was blowing pretty good, and I stood up there and hit my little 8-iron and the wind cooperated for once,” she chuckled. “It was the only time today it cooperated. It hit and thought, oh that is going to be pretty good because it started rolling down by the hole...and before I knew it, I watched it drop in.”

This is MacLean’s first time playing the Doherty and she said that Rees Jones used to be her neighbor in New Jersey.

“He used to live right behind me and all of these years I never had a chance to play this event,” she said. “I felt pretty good coming into today, but two bad holes did me in today.

“It’s a beautiful golf course and everybody is talking about the redo,” she said. “The greens were insane, and you had to be in the right quadrant to have a chance at a birdie.”

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