

Matlari wins boys' 12-13 group in Doral Junior Publix

A day after heavy rain wiped out the first round, the Doral Junior Publix Classic resumed under sunny skies Saturday.

Philipp Matlari withstood wind gusts to take the boys' 12-13 title with a 2-under-par 70.

Doral's White Course, designed by Greg Norman, was tough, Matlari said, but he added he putted well. Good enough, in fact, to win by three strokes over Julian Otero of Colombia.

In the girls' 12-13 division, a playoff was needed to determine the winner. Reona Hirai of Summerville, S.C., and Sierra Brooks of Sorrento each shot a 74, but Hirai prevailed in the playoff.

“It feels really great because I've never won a major tournament before,” Hirai said.

A playoff also was needed to determine the winner of the boys' 10-11 division, which Windermere's Sully Zagerman won against West Palm Beach's Jeffrey Cunningham as darkness fell over the course. Both finished with a 73.

In the boys' 8-9 group, Alejandro Madariaga of Mexico, playing in his third Doral Juniors event, won with a 3-under 33. He defeated San Diego's Ahmed Ali, who shot a 34. Naomi Mitchell of Norfolk, Va., won the girls' 8-9 with a 33.

Other winners included Jose Islas of Mexico, who shot a 37 in the boys' 7-and-under; Elle Nachmann of Boca Raton, who shot a 38 in the girls' 7-and-under; and Maria Otero of Colombia, who shot a 37 in the girls' 10-11 division.

The 54-hole tournament for the 14-18 group starts Monday after a practice challenge on Sunday featuring the top 12 golfers from Florida facing the top 12 from New England.

-- MICHAEL SEFF

Doral Publix Junior Golf tournament opens Friday

Youth, talent, and diversity will all be on display Friday when the Doral Publix Junior Golf Classic kicks off at the Doral Golf Resort & Spa.

Nearly 700 golfers from all over the world will compete in the Miami-based championship tournament. Last year's winners came from areas such as France, Belgium, Denmark and Japan.

The boys' and girls' fields have six age brackets, ranging from 7-and-under to 16-18. In 2008, the 16-18 fields were won by Tomoya Tokunaga of Japan and Laura Escallon from Belgium.

"Every one of these kids comes here based on a quotient," said Jay Miller, vice president of the First Tee Dade Amateur Golf Association.

"These children are not only selected based on their golf handicap, but based on their scholastic [grade point average]. That's why we have 45 NCAA Division I and II coaches on site, because they know these kids can keep the grades when they go to school."

All golfers 13-and-under will tee off at 7:30 am on Friday, as they will play 36 holes. For the older golfers, play starts on Monday, and they will go 54 holes. The event is open to the public.

-- MICHAEL SEFF

The Miami Herald

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Treacherous weather conditions forced officials to cancel play in the boys' and girls' 13-and-under group at the Doral Publix Junior Golf Classic on Friday.

With heavy rains falling throughout the late morning, the first round was halted. There will be a condensed one-round tournament for all golfers between ages 7 and 13 on Saturday.

Rules chairman Tom Zaras made the decision at approximately 1 p.m., which wiped out any results from the morning round.

Tee times for Saturday's round were bumped up an hour to 8:30 a.m. On Sunday, there will feature a practice round for the top 12 golfers from Florida against with the top 12 from New England.

-- MICHAEL SEFF