

Sports & Leisure

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Wins 20th Ontario title Lapointe captures mid-amateur crown despite late letdown

As she discussed her fourth Canadian amateur golf championships last week, Mary Ann Lapointe said aside from her first victory, her favourite was the win where she sunk an 18-foot putt on the final hole for the win.

So as Lapointe was closing in on her 11th Ontario Mid-Amateur title on Friday, perhaps she was just trying to make it a little more memorable.

Entering the final round with a five-shot advantage, Lapointe was two-under through the first 12 holes and cruising toward victory. But after a stretch of three bogeys and a double bogey over five holes, she found herself in a bunker in front of the 18th green with only two shots to play with to secure the victory.

No problem.

Lapointe blasted out of the bunker, leaving the ball just 18 inches from the cup. She tapped in to win the tournament for the fourth consecutive year and the 10th time in the last 11 years.

The victory has another reason to be memorable for Lapointe. It ties her with Marlene Streit and Nick Weslock for the most victories at an Ontario championship. Streit, a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame, won 11 ladies amateur titles while Weslock won 11 men's senior titles.

In total it was Lapointe's 20th Ontario championship—to go along with five amateur and four match play titles.

Lapointe led wire-to-wire at the Greenhills Golf Club in London. She made two birdies on the back nine as she opened with a round of one-under-par 71. That gave her a four-stroke advantage.

The second round presented extremely windy conditions and Lapointe bogeyed two of the first four holes. But she came back with birdies on 10 and 12 and finished with a 74 to put one more stroke between herself and the rest of the field.

Lapointe's troubles down the stretch in the final round allowed Terrill Samuel to close within one stroke. Samuel's victory in the 2000 mid-amateur is the only interruption of Lapointe's dominance of the event since 1994.

Rosemary Wysocki of Georgetown finished tied for ninth with a three-round total of 241 while Julie Green, also of Georgetown, was 36th in the field of 188 golfers.

Lapointe's good news for the day wasn't over.

The Canadian Ladies' Golf Association announced Friday that Lapointe, Lindsay Knowlton and Laura Matthews will form the Canadian team for the Women's World Amateur Team Championship in Puerto Rico October 20-23.

It will be Lapointe's sixth time competing in the event, surpassing Marilyn O'Connor for most appearances by a Canadian.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Mary Ann Lapointe chips the ball on the green (above) at the Ontario Ladies Mid-Amateur Golf Championship in London. Lapointe won the event for a record 11th time. Her one-stroke victory over Terrill Samuel also marked her 20th Ontario championship, including five ladies amateur and four match play titles. Below, Lapointe kisses the championship trophy for the 10th time in the last 11 years.

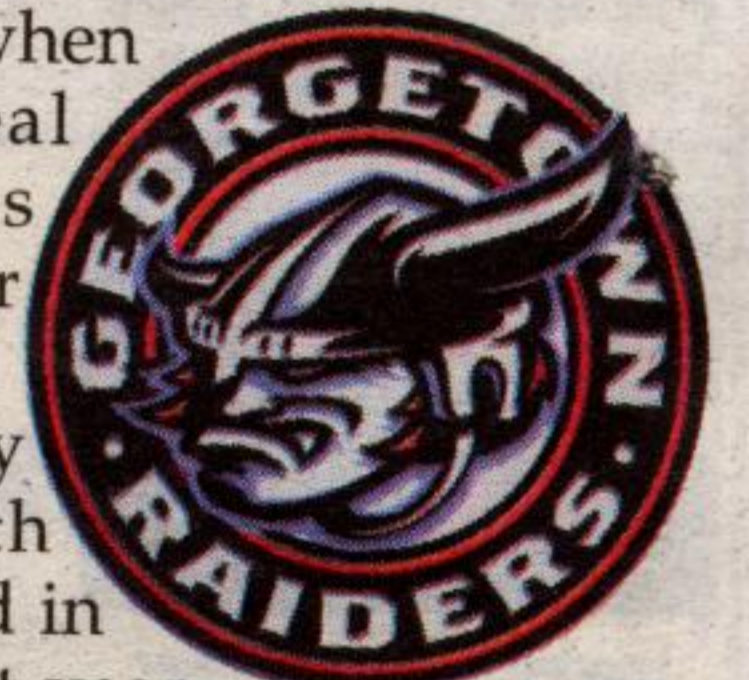
Photos by Julie Green



Barrow could be a 'keeper' for Raiders

The Georgetown Raiders welcomed back the player who scored the biggest goal in the junior team's history but it's the guy stopping pucks who made the biggest impression on the weekend.

Kevin Harvey should be preparing for the Calgary Flames' training camp but with the uncertainty of the NHL labour situation, the 20-year-old winger suited up for the Raiders Saturday. Harvey, who scored the Game 7 double overtime winner in the Raiders' 2003 West Conference championship, will need somewhere to play if NHL players are locked out when their deal expires September 15.



Harvey played with Owen Sound in the OHL last year.

But OHL teams are limited to three 20-year-olds per team and with an influx of 20-year-olds expected if an NHL lockout occurs, Harvey just may end up in a Raider uniform again.

Harvey had an assist in 9-0 rout of the defending Canadian champion Aurora Tigers in Saturday's Provincial Jr. A Hockey League exhibition game. But it was the guy at the other end, goalie John Barrow, who may play an even bigger role.

Goaltending was a question mark heading into the Raider camp but after Barrow stopped 25 shots and ran his shutout string to 94 minutes, the questions are disappearing.

Barrow, a 20-year-old who played 22 games over two seasons with the OHL's Sarnia Sting looks to have grabbed the No. 1 job. He also stopped all 14 shots he faced over 30 minutes in Friday's 5-0 win over Thornhill.

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