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Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2005

## Lapointe 'Rockets' her way to record 12th Mid-Am title

*Georgetown golfer wins Ontario crown by 18 strokes*

The golfer known as The Rocket to her fellow players launched herself into the golf stratosphere with a dominating performance at the Investors Group Ontario Mid-Amateur Golf Championship.

Mary Ann Lapointe fired rounds of 67 and 68 at the Bay of Quinte Country Club to win the provincial title by a whopping 18 strokes. It marked Lapointe's 12th victory at the mid-amateur, breaking the provincial record held by Hall of Famers Marlene Streit and Nick Weslock for the most victories in a single

Ontario championship.

"It was just one of those weeks where everything was firing on all cylinders," said Lapointe, who won the event for the fifth consecutive year. "It

*'She smoked everybody. I could understand if she's playing against five or six handicappers but she's playing against scratch golfers and one handicappers.'*

—Fellow golfer Julie Green

seems crazy that it was by that many shots. I have no explanation for that."

Others did.

"She's in a different league," said fellow North Halton golfer Julie Green, who finished tied for 24th in the field of 62 golfers. "She smoked everybody. I could understand if she's playing against five or six handicappers but she's playing against scratch golfers and one handicappers."

Lapointe won the 2001 mid-amateur by 20 strokes but that tournament was three rounds. This year's event was shortened to 36 holes when Wednesday's round was rained out.

The week before the mid-amateur, Lapointe's brother, golf pro John Hayward, suggested a slight change in his sister's swing.

"I just turned my shoulder a little differently and it made it effortless. It corrected something I've been trying to correct for a while," Lapointe said.

It resulted in Lapointe challenging her personal best round of 66 in both rounds.

Lapointe birdied seven of the last 11 holes on the



Georgetown golfer Mary Ann Lapointe, seen here kissing the Investors Group Ontario Mid-Amateur Golf Championship cup last year, added her 12th mid-am championship to her resume this past weekend breaking the record shared by legends Marlene Streit and Nick Weslock. File photo

opening day to finish with a 67, putting her eight strokes ahead of the rest of the field. When the second round was rained out, Lapointe set the goal of shooting the low round on Thursday.

"You try not to match a good score because if you start off with five pars you start thinking, 'I'm three behind,' and you start putting pressure on yourself. But then I started with a couple of birdies so I just said, 'OK, let's go.'"

Lapointe had five birdies on the front side and although she couldn't match the sizzling 31 she fired on the back nine on the opening day, only a bogey on the 18th prevented her from duplicating her 67.

Still, she more than doubled her first-round lead. Terrill Samuel, the only golfer other than Lapointe to win the mid-amateur in the last 12 years, shot 75 on the opening day and 78 in windier conditions on Thursday to finish second, 18 shots back of Lapointe.

Asked if she had ever seen anyone win a tournament by such a wide margin, Green laughed.

"Yeah, when I play against her in the club championship. That's what I was telling everyone there, welcome to my world."

Lapointe is now hoping to add an international title to her long list of accomplishments. She leaves this week for the U.S. Mid-Amateur in Richmond, Texas. After two rounds of stroke play on Saturday and Sunday, the field will be cut to 64 for match play.

Lapointe earned the top seed in her first U.S. Mid-Amateur after posting the low score in stroke play but lost in the second round of match play. Two years ago she reached the third round of match play.

"Match play is more rounds and is more tiring," Lapointe said. "You can't have a bad day. But if you can make lots of birdies you can win, which is a good sign heading into it."

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

## Raiders land goalie

With the regular season opener approaching, the Georgetown Raiders took their first step toward solidifying their goaltending situation by acquiring Jason Fiorino.

The netminder spent last season with the Stoney Creek Warriors of the Golden Horseshoe Jr. B Hockey League where he posted a 3.76 average in 27 games.

Fiorino, 19, played the previous season with the Hamilton Red Wings of the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League.

The Raiders open the regular season Saturday at home when they host the Burlington Cougars.

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