

SPORTS: Defending champ takes deep breath at Ontario senior golf championships

Trophy time 'routine' for Steinberg

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Whenever Ivy Steinberg takes to the fairways to play a round of golf, she follows three important steps.

For the 52-year-old from Cedar Valley in northern Whitchurch-Stouffville, it's a matter of staying focused, following her routine and making sure she breathes.

Adhering to those basics paid dividends for the Granite Golf Club member as she successfully retained her Golf Association of Ontario Investors Group Senior Women's Championship at the Paris Grand Country Club Thursday.

After a sixth-place showing in Tuesday's opening round, Steinberg battled her way into contention through Wednesday's second round and ended up in a three-way tie for second place to move within a shot of leader Sue Postian of London.

In Thursday's final round, Steinberg and Postian went par for par through the first five holes.

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"When I took my second shot, I lost focus and didn't stick to my routine," she said of the strike that veered left but still left her in good position to hit the green. "Then on my third, I took a gap wedge and it was just perfect, 20 feet from hole."

Steinberg calmly sank her birdie putt to seal her second consecutive senior provincial title and closed out the event with a three-day total score of 226 (77-75-74), 10-over par.

Postian fell victim to the tough 18th, carding a double-bogey and finishing with a five-over par 77 for second place at 228, 12-over par.

Steinberg, Postian and the third- and fourth-place finishers will represent Ontario at the Royale Cup Canadian Senior Championship in Bridgewater, N.S.

By placing in the top 10, Steinberg gained a position on the Ada MacKenzie Team, which will represent Ontario next spring in the annual matches against New York State.

For more on the championships, log on to:
www.gao.ca



GOLF ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO FILE PHOTO

Ivy Steinberg of Cedar Valley retained her Golf Association of Ontario Investors Group Senior Women's Championship in Paris Thursday.

Mennos hope to nurse pitchers back into lineup

The Stouffville Mennos are dealing with the injury bug.

With three of their pitchers on the shelf, the Mennos were forced to postpone their Oshawa City and District Fastball League game against Aurora in Memorial Park Thursday.

Byron Baranieski has a leg injury, while Greg Dalgarno is out with a sore shoulder and Jay Nesbitt had an arm injury.

No makeup date has been set as of press time.

The Mennos' next scheduled league game is on the road against the Oshawa Ravens on Aug. 5.

"Hopefully we can patch together some pitching for next week," Mennos' manager Art Burkholder said.

Hathaway fourth in Saskatoon

Jason Hathaway drove the Stouffville-based Team 3 Red/EHR Snap-on Tools/Vortex Brake Pads Dodge to a fourth-place finish in the NASCAR Canadian Tire Series' Velocity Prairie Thunder 250 race at the Auto Clearing Motor Speedway in Saskatoon Wednesday.

Scott Steckley took the checkered flag.

Hathaway is in eighth place in the series standings with 982 points. Andrew Ranger is the series leader with 1,179 points.

The next race will take place at Mosport Speedway with the Mosport 200 Aug. 8.

But a missed putt by Postian on the sixth hole allowed Steinberg to draw even with her.

That would be short-lived as Steinberg stumbled approaching the turn, carding three straight bogeys on holes seven, eight and nine.

Finding herself in a different pairing from Postian, who also bogeyed the eighth, Steinberg feared she had fallen too far behind.

"Before I started the back nine, I was able to find out that I was only two strokes back, even after making three sloppy birdies," Steinberg said on the Golf Association of Ontario's website. "I decided to just focus, follow my routine and breathe."

Steinberg didn't card another bogey, remaining calm and collected right up to the eighteenth hole, a challenging par five that saw several

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