

Naples' Hiestand in contention at Florida Senior Women's Open



Indianapolis' Aneta Abrahamova made a hole-in-one on No. 3 on the Creek Course at Quail Creek Country Club in the first round of the Florida Women's Open on Friday. She used an 8-iron from 155 yards.

ALYSON LOZANO/QUAIL CREEK COUNTRY CLUB

Greg Hardwig
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In an area that features an older demographic, perhaps it's not surprising that more Southwest Florida golfers are near the top in the Florida Senior Women's Open at Quail Creek Country Club on Friday than in the accompanying overall tournament.

Naples amateur Mary Jane Hiestand, who has played in 44 United States Golf Association events and plays out of Hideout, is tied for second after a 2-over-par 74, along with Bonita Springs' Kim Keyer-Scott, the reigning Florida State Women's Mid-Amateur champion.

Florida Women's Open/ Senior Open

Where: Quail Creek Country Club

When: Friday-Sunday

Tee times: 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Parking: Check in at gatehouse; no charge

Info: fsga.org

Hiestand birdied No. 10 her first hole on the Quail Course, and had another on the par-3 17th, but that was wrapped around bogeys on Nos. 14 and 16 that lipped out.

"That was kind of disappointing," she said.

On her second nine -- the front -- she

bogeyed Nos. 3 and 4 and parred the rest.

"I just tried to play steady," she said. "I didn't make anything long. I had 32 putts and hit like 14 greens."

Susan Bond, who has given lessons in Naples in the past and works as a consultant for PGA Magazine, leads the Senior Open with a 72. Bond, who played the back nine first, made the turn at 1-over, then birdied Nos. 1, 5 and 6, but bogeyed Nos. 7 and 8..

Former LPGA Tour and current Legends Tour player Terry-Jo Myers of Fort Myers is sixth after a 75. Cape Coral amateur Gigi Higgins is tied for ninth following a 77. Defending champion Barb

See GOLF, Page 5C

Golf

Continued from Page 1C

Bunkowsky is tied for 11th after a 78.

Myers, 56, is giving her game a go to get ready for the Senior LPGA Championship in French Lick, Indiana, from Oct. 10-17. She's had injections in a bothersome arthritic hip, and will have some in her back, which has been giving her trouble as well.

Myers shot a 75 despite hitting four balls in the water, all on layup shots she just simply hit too far.

"That's not my style of course; I'd rather just be able to bomb it out there," she said. "I just didn't know the course well enough."

Myers said Friday was her 10th competitive round of any sort in 2018 and first in tournament golf in a year.

"It was just a matter of trying to see what my body would hold up to, but I was very impressed," she said. "I actu-

ally hit it too far several times today."

Myers, a three-time LPGA Tour winner, said getting in and out of a cart is more bothersome for her hip than walking, and she was relieved she didn't seem to have any lingering difficulty after the round. She wants to do well here, and then be ready for the Senior LPGA Championship.

"I still like to compete," she said. "I still hit it really long and plenty solid. There's no reason not to."

In the overall Women's Open, no Southwest Florida players are in the top 10. The co-leader is a familiar one to the tournament, though.

Defending champion Sandra Changkija, who tied for ninth in an LPGA Tour event last month, shot a 3-under-par 69 and is tied with former Nova Southeastern golfer Janelle Johnson of Royal Palm Beach.

The tournament continues Saturday and concludes Sunday, with the top 60 and ties making the final round. Tee times are from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. each

day on the club's two courses. There is a combined \$50,000 purse.

Gabriella Wheeler, a former Symetra Tour player now living in Cape Coral, shot a 73 and is tied for 13th, the highest local player.

Naples amateur Emma Bradley, a Baylor commit who tied for sixth last year, shot a 74 and is tied for 20th, along with former St. John Neumann golfer Sydney Shrader, who now plays for North Florida.

"I thought I played pretty well today," Bradley said. "I definitely left some shots out there. My goal over the weekend is to beat (Friday's) score. I feel very comfortable on both courses so I'm looking forward to the next two days."

Estero High senior Kim Egozi shot a 75. Former tour pro Charlotta Sorenstam, Annika's sister, had a 76.

Aneta Abrahamova from Indianapolis made an ace on No. 3 on the Creek Course with an 8-iron from 155 yards. She shot even-par and is tied for seventh.

Florida Women's Open at Quail Creek Country Club

Par-72
Friday's scores

Top 10

1. Sandra Changkija, Kissimmee, 69; 1. Janelle Johnson, Royal Palm Beach, 69; 3. Guro Rambjoer, Orlando, 70; 3. Jessie Tang, LPGA Tour, 70; 3. Sandra Angulo Minarro, Symetra Tour/NWGA, 70; 6. Laura Jansone, Ozo Golfo Klubbs, 71; 7. Aneta Abrahamova (a), Indianapolis, 72; 7. Dana Williams (a), Boca Raton, 72; 7. Laura Edmonds (a), Weston, 72; 7. Rachel Jones, Greensboro CC, 72; 7. Sophie Madden (a), Grande Oaks GC, 72; 7. Gaby Amos (a), Cobblestone Park GC, 72

Other local scores

73 -- Gabriella Wheeler, Cape Coral
74 -- Emma Bradley (a), Hideout; Sydney Shrader (a), North Florida
75 -- Kim Egozi (a), Pelican's Nest GC
78 -- Annie Garcia, The Quarry; Kelsy Holbert, ex-FGCU/Cheval CC; Emma Smyser, Naples
81 -- Ailsa Clark (a), FGCU
82 -- Lexie Flerlage (a), FGCU
85 -- Cathleen Wong (a), Stoneybrook CC
86 -- Elizabeth Amendola (a), Grey Oaks CC
89 -- Vasy Montague (a), High Point University
90 -- Ellen Lamson, Pelican Preserve

Florida Senior Women's Open

Top 10

1. Susan Bond, PGA Magazine, 72; 2. Amy Ellertson (a), Farmington CC, 74; 2. Kim Keyer-Scott (a), Shadow Wood CC, 74; 2. Laura Carson (a), Bent Pine, 74; 2. Mary Jane Hiestand (a), Hideout, 74; 6. Terry-Jo Myers, Cypress Lake CC, 75; 7. Diane Lang (a), Weston Hills CC, 76; 7. Paula Brzostowski, The Preserve, 76; 9. Gigi Higgins (a), Palmetto Pine CC, 77; 9. Therese Quinn (a), Sawgrass CC, 77

Other local scores

79 -- Gail Graham, Esplanade G&CC
80 -- Jeanne Gibbons, Colonial CC
88 -- Holly Vaughn, Quail Creek CC; Kathie Westlund (a), San Carlos GC
90 -- Natalie McNicholas (a), Calusa Pines GC