

Naples' Hiestand wins Florida Sr. Women's Open

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Mary Jane Hiestand and Sandra Angulo Minarro won the Florida Women's Senior Open and Florida Women's Open, respectively, on Sunday at Quail Creek Country Club.

Following an hour-and-a-half rain delay and an up-and-down back nine, Hiestand found herself all tied up at 227 with Kim Keyer-Scott of Bonita Springs and Susan Bond of PGA Magazine on the Creek Course.

Hiestand, a member at Hideout Golf Club in Naples, almost didn't make it to the playoff. She hadn't putted well from distance most of the day and faced around a 45-foot putt for birdie on No. 16.

"My instructor said, 'Why don't you just make this?'" Hiestand said. "It was funny because I hadn't hit one from six feet all day."

The playoff went to No. 13 where Hiestand striped the ball earlier that day and was able to do it again. Keyer-Scott, the state Women's Mid-Amateur champion, was able to keep pace as Bond, of Ponte Vedra, bowed out after the first hole.

Bond, who has given lessons in Naples, didn't go home empty-handed. Because of her professional status, she was able to take home the \$4,000 first-place check for the seniors.

With Bond collecting her check, Hiestand and Keyer-Scott battled on No. 14 then back to Nos. 13 and 14 again.

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Women's Open winner Sandra Angulo Minarro, left, and Senior Open winner Mary Jane Hiestand stand with their trophies Sunday at the Quail Creek Country Club and Golf Course. DOROTHY EDWARDS/NAPLES DAILY NEWS

Hiestand

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Hiestand's birdie putt on the fourth playoff hole sealed it.

"I'm really not sure how to feel," Hiestand said. "After the delay, I played OK then it got a little shaky, but I was able to pull it out."

Gigi Higgins of Cape Coral finished fifth while Gail Graham, who teaches at Esplanade Golf & Country Club in Naples and also writes a monthly column for the Daily News, tied for 10th.

As the playoff was finishing up on the senior side, the Women's Open didn't change from Saturday to Sunday at the top of the leaderboard.

Minarro, who recently relocated to Port Saint Lucie, was able to collect her first win as a professional, posting a three-day score of 206 and defeating defending champion Sandra Changkija by two strokes. Minarro collected \$8,500.

"It's amazing," said Minarro, a former Symetra Tour player. "I've been playing professionally a while now and to get my first win here as a new resident of the state is very special."

Sydney Shrader, a rising junior at the University of North Florida and a former St. John Neumann High School golfer, was the highest local finisher in the overall Women's Open, finishing ninth at 219 after a final-round 74.

Charlotta Sorenstam, Annika's sister, shot 76-73-72/221 to tie for 11th.

Florida Women's Open at Quail Creek Country Club

Par-72

Top 10

1. Sandra Angulo Minarro, Symetra Tour/NWGA, 70-68-68/206; 2. Sandra Changkija, Kissimmee, 69-71-68/208; T3. Laura Jansone, Oza Golfa Klubz, 71-71-71/213; T3. Luiza Altmann, Ladies European Tour, 73-70-70/213; T5. Jessy Tang, LPGA Tour, 70-70-76/216; T5. Guro Rambjoer, Orlando, 70-70-76/216; 7. Dana Williams (a), Boca Raton, 72-70-75/217; 8. Stephanie Connelly Eiswerth, Fleming Island, 73-72-73/218; Sydney Shrader (a), North Florida, 74-71-74/219; 10. Ashley Zagers (a), Dunedin GC, 73-71-76/220.

Other local scores

222 -- Emma Bradley (a), Hideout, 74-76-72

226 -- Gabriella Wheeler, Cape Coral, 73-75-78

236 -- Kim Egozi (a), Pelican's Nest, 75-78-83

Florida Women's Senior Open

Top 10

*T1. Mary Jane Hiestand (a), Hideout, 74-75-78/227; T1. Kim Keyer-Scott (a), Shadow Wood, 74-76-77/227; T1. Susan Bond, PGA Magazine, 72-77-78/227; 4. Amy Ellertson (a), Farmington CC, 74-78-76/228; 5. Gigi Higgins (a), Palmetto Pine, 77-75-77/229; 6. Laura Carson (a), Bent Pine, 74-78-78/230; 7. Barb Bunkowsky, Wellington, 78-74-80/232; 8. Paula Brzostowski, The Preserve, 76-75-82/233; 9. Pat Shriver, Cove Cay, 80-73-82/235; T10. Diane Lang (a), Weston Hills, 76-84-79/239; T10. Gail Graham, Esplanade G&CC, 79-79-81/239; T10. Therese Quinn (a), Sawgrass CC, 77-79-83/239

* -- won on fourth playoff hole