

PRESS RELEASE - AHING BRINGS HOME BIGGEST TITLE OF CAREER

North Carolina Women's Golf Association
73rd NC State Amateur

The 73rd North Carolina Women's Amateur was held June 15-18 at River Landing in Wallace NC. With near perfect conditions all week contestants were trying to have their name etched into the history books. The 54 hole event had a lot of recognizable names in the field including 2 time champion Patty Moore (2000,2003) and 2 time champion Courtney McKim (2012,2013). But the favorites on paper were two collegians that had already added their names to the traveling trophy. Last years champion Mallory Fobes who plays for UNC Wilmington and Nicole Adam, winner in 2020, who will also be playing for the Seahawks in the fall as a transfer from UNC Chapel Hill. Each were primed once again to raise the trophy. Both Fobes and Adam are nationally ranked in the World Amateur Golf Rankings and were eager to tackle Riverlanding where many big tournaments and qualifiers have been held.

After day one, Nicole Adam fired a two over par 74 and had a comfortable three stroke lead over Trinity Ahing (Former Western Carolina) and Ryan Sinclair (Former NC State) who fired a pair of 77's. Jaclyn Kenzel (NC State) was four back with a 78. All four players have division 1 tournament experience but they would have to approach the 6300 yard layout with precision to remain in contention. After 36 holes a relatively unknown name moved to the top of the leaderboard with an even par 72. Trinity Ahing played nearly flawless against the former champion Adam who posted a six over par 78 and a two day total of 152. Ahing was in position to earn the biggest win of her young career having a 3 stroke cushion (149) over Adam and Kenzel to begin the final round.

With birdies on holes #1 and #3, Ahing increased her lead to 5 over Adam but the former champion never let up. Adam birdied the par five fifth and then Ahing followed with a birdie at the par three sixth. With twelve holes remaining five strokes separated Ahing from Adam. Both players struggled on the outward nine with Ahing taking a bogey on the par five 7th and both players taking a double on the tricky dogleg left 8th hole.

Heading to the inward 9, Trinity Ahing had a four stroke lead over Nicole Adam and the stage was set for the biggest win of her career. The veteran Adam found something on the back and made it a championship to be earned. With birdies on the par 3 tenth and the par 4 eleventh and then another birdie at the par 5 thirteenth, Adam had closed the gap to just one with five holes remaining. An untimely bogie on hole 16 from Ahing and now the two were tied with just two

holes remaining. At the end of regulation both players were at six over par for the championship. It was back to the tight dogleg left 18th hole to decide who would become the 2022 NCWGA champion. Ahing led with a soft draw with her driver to the bottom of the hill and Adams followed playing a bit more conservative using a three wood. Both players hit approaches to within 20 feet. Trinity Ahing played first easing her putt to about 2 feet and opted to continue playing out for her par. The spotlight then turned to Nicole Adam who had a birdie putt up the hill to win her second NCWGA title. Adam's putt fell short and left leaving her a short slight breaking putt to extend the playoff. She hit the putt a bit too firm that caught the hole but lipped out leaving Trinity Ahing almost in shock that she had just won the North Carolina's Women's Amateur. Prior to this event she had only won one junior title (Roy Jones 2019) and one qualifier (Optimist-2018). Ahing heads to the Eastern Amateur at her home course next week with hopes of adding to her resume. Rounding out the top five in the Championship division were Nicole Adam (222), Jaclyn Kenzel (230), Mallory Fobes (230), Grace Holcomb (233). The North Carolina Amateur junior champion was Maddy Vogan (245).