

RACV Royal Pines members' success in elite amateur events continues with the recent win by 17 year old Godiva Kim at the Queensland Women's Amateur Championship.

Following on from the win by 8 year old Hugo Smith at the World Age Group Championships in California in July, Godiva defeated one of Australia's highest-ranked female amateur golfers when overcoming recent US Women's Amateur semi-finalist, Ella Scaysbrook from Newcastle, in the final of the event held at the Bribie Island Golf Club.

Scaysbrook had taken the eventual US Women's Amateur Champion Megha Ganne to extra holes in the semi-final in Oregon just two weeks earlier before being defeated, so Kim was up against an in-form and more experienced player but edged out her opponent to win 2&1.

The win adds to a growing list of victories by Kim, the then 15 year old also claiming the NSW Amateur Championship in early 2024, when defeating prominent Rachel Lee at the Belmont Golf Club near Newcastle, and the South Pacific Ladies Open at Surfers Paradise Golf Club in July 2024.

Kim was also been runner-up at the NSW Amateur at the age of just 14.

There has also been numerous other placing in amateur events over the past couple of years since becoming more involved in competition golf at the age of 13.

Born in Australia to parents of Korean origin, Godiva got started in golf at the age of 5 through the interest in the game of her father, Young Kim, who has essentially coached her throughout after receiving a few initial lessons from professionals.

Her rather unique name of 'Godiva' came from her father and although she has another first name of Christal, her given middle name of Godiva was one her father chose and is the one used. "I like the name, and a lot of people call me Goddy," said Godiva while practising at Royal Pines this week."

Godiva played in several junior kids events before getting more serious around the age of 13.

"When dad who was really into the game, showed me the game I really liked it and had a few outside lessons early on to get the basics but dad has coached me ever since," said Godiva while practising at RACV Royal Pines where she can be found nearly every day.

After playing first at Emerald Lakes then Southport where she first became a member of a golf club, Godiva has been a member at Royal Pines for four years or so and highlighted the quality of the practice facilities as one of the reasons she enjoys being a member.

"I really like the practice facilities especially the big greens for chipping and putting practice and the driving range too where you get to hit off grass most of the time which is not the case at most other Gold Coast courses, plus I really like the course."

Originally at Bellview Park primary school, Godiva is now home schooled which clearly allows her to devote a lot of time to practicing her craft.

Godiva's win against Scaysbrook came after one or two close matches leading into the later stages of the match play. After qualifying in third place through the 36 holes qualifying phase, Godiva only narrowly survived her opening round match against Mimi Thomsen at the 23<sup>rd</sup> hole before getting to the final three matches later.

Godiva has already represented Queensland in both junior and senior level in Interstate Series, assisting the Queenslanders to victory in a hotly contested encounter in the Senior matches and also in Queensland's runner-up finish in the Juniors.

So what plans does the talented teenager have for the future?

"I do want to turn pro and was thinking of it this year but I am a bit too young. I went to Thailand to play in a qualifying event for a tour but was told when I got there that I was too young.

"The trip wasn't wasted as I played golf for a week but disappointed that I couldn't get to play in the qualifier but maybe that might work out ok as I am planning on turning professional at the end of next year if I feel by then I am ready."

Godiva has already played a couple of professional events making the cut at this year's Women's Vic Open at 13<sup>th</sup> Beach which was a significant achievement for the then 16-year-old.

"I was happy to make the cut as I had also played in it as a 13-year-old and missed so it was great to get through to the weekend.

Given her obvious talent and her dedication to hard work on her game, Godiva Kim could well be a name up in much brighter lights than those already shining on her, and that she is a fan of RACV Royal Pines gives us all a bit of interest on just where her game takes her.

**Note – This is a direct copy of an interview undertaken by local journalist Bruce Young. The Gold Coast District Golf Association would like to thank Bruce for allowing us to use his interview and commentary for this post.**