

PINEHURST NEWS

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Top seed Clanton survives opening-round match in 108th Women's North & South Amateur Championship

VILLAGE OF PINEHURST, NC (July 21, 2010) – Top-seeded Cydney Clanton of Concord, N.C., got off to a fast start and then held on Wednesday to advance to the second round of match play in the 108th Women's North & South Amateur Championship. Clanton moved on in the 64-player field despite no birdies in her match against Tara McFadden of Canada, who was the last golfer to advance in an eight-woman playoff for four final spots in Tuesday's stroke play qualifying.

Clanton, an All-American at Auburn and last year's runner-up here, was 2-up through six holes on the Pinehurst No. 2 course before McFadden, who plays college golf at Elon, recorded birdies on the 7th and 12th holes to even the match.

McFadden's three-putt on No. 16 opened the door for Clanton, and McFadden lipped out a putt on the 18th green that would have sent the match to extra holes.

"I wasn't very comfortable over the ball, so today was definitely that day to beat me, for sure," Clanton said. "I made a few mistakes ... and I just kind of hung in there with par." Clanton's former Auburn teammate, second-seeded Candace Schepperle of Birmingham, Ala., also found herself in a grinding match and was all square after 10 holes before winning four of her next six holes for a 4 and 2 victory over Desiree Dubreuil of Santa Ana, Calif.

Clanton's second-round match Thursday is against Christie Appleton of Seaford, Va. The stroke-play medalist sank a 5-footer on the final hole to advance 1-up against Meredith Swanson of Roanoke, Va.

"I am excited to play Cydney because I didn't make as many putts as I could have today so I think if I go out there and roll a couple of putts in it could be a good match," Appleton said. "Sometimes you just try so hard putting, but on the final putt I knew I could make that putt so I just stepped up and made it."

Possibly the most impressive performance Wednesday came from fourth-seeded Marina Alex of Wayne, N.J. The first-team all-American from Vanderbilt carded five birdies en route to a 5 and 4 win over Chihiro Ikeda of the Philippines.

Lauren Greenlief of Oakton, Va., pulled off the biggest upset. The 60th seeded player from the University of Virginia disposed of Arizona State's Jaclyn Sweeney, the No. 5 seed, 4 and 3 after going 5-up on the front side. Sweeney advanced to the semifinals in 2009. Two rounds of match play are scheduled for Thursday with the 36-hole final match slated for Saturday.