

Mouw atop the Ambassador League leaderboard after one day:

By: Derryl Trujillo
Inland Sports Senior Writer

Menifee, CA (Menifee Lakes Country Club)-

Lakes Course: Par 35-37=72 @ 6,528 yards
Six spots to next Monday's CIF-SS Individual Qualifier at Canyon Crest

Sunday evening two time defending Ambassador League golf champion William Mouw was flying back from Georgia. On Monday morning at the league prelims hosted by Woodcrest Christian at Menifee Lakes Country Club Lakes Course he found himself in one of the last groups during a long day which tested competitors. When players began to arrive the sun was poking in and out of cloud cover and a sideways rain started and stopped several times over the course of Monday's round. Mouw, a Pepperdine signee shot -3 coming home to post a 69 and leads by six shots from teammate Isaac Liang.

William remarked after his afternoon's work "I was a little tired on the front nine and it took me eleven holes to get going and adjust to the wet, soft conditions by flying shots all the way to the hole. I knew there were some attackable par 5s on the way in and was able to take advantage of them to set the number. My thought process was to just make pars on the way out especially with the conditions we were playing in."

Hannah Zeman has played with the boys her entire high school career and handled herself quite well. In 2017 she was a qualifier for the CIF-State tournament held at Canyon Crest in Riverside but missed the chance to qualify this year due to injury. I caught up with the Knights senior after her opening round 79 (+7) which leaves her right in the thick of a crowded leaderboard for all league honors. She remarked "Playing with the boys makes me really work on my short game because I know I'm not going to hit every green & need to bail myself out. On a day like this it's really important to stay level headed and cool. It can be quite easy to say "Oh it's not fair" but when you realize everyone's dealing with it then it's just a fight to see who can handle it the best. I'm not focusing on the leaderboard a lot since I can't advance to individuals but trying to trying to beat my own personal score and better myself as a player."

Every small school at one point or another has had a girl or multiple girls playing in the Spring. When I played my high school golf Linfield Christian had perhaps two of the best area's best in Sydnee Michaels Muncrief who played at UCLA and earned her LPGA tour card and Glory Yang.

Zeman has certainly made her mark on the books and so will Woodcrest Christian's Kaylan Labasan. She spoke after advancing to Wednesday's final with a round of 89 "Playing against the boys ultimately makes you a better player because if you can hang playing these longer

courses it's a confidence boost to know I can hang with girls when going to our distances. I feel really good about my round today especially considering the rain. That forced me to really focus on proper club selection and ball striking today. In order to move up the board I have to work on a lot of short game for Wednesday."

Knights coach Kevin Knutson said about his team's performance "For golf it's a number and we have to get to the 370s. I'm proud of all of them. This was one of the better team scores we posted this season and I still don't feel like we played a complete round"

Ivy League Results:

Day 1: Temecula Creek Inn

Day 2: Legends

Ben Delahanty leads at +9 (81) after one day of action. He's three shots in front of Dawson Halvorson from Paloma Valley. Nathan Brown and Scott Palmer both posted 88's and have a slim one shot lead over Hunter Knoffloch for their final CIF-SS qualifying spot.