

20-year-old Australian earns 2nd victory of her rookie season

Green wins Symetra event, wraps up LPGA Tour card



Filipino golfers participating in the tournament.

EL DORADO, Arkansas, Sept 18, (AP): Hannah Green shot a course-record 8-under 64 on Sunday to win the Symetra Tour's Murphy USA El Dorado Shootout and wrap up an LPGA Tour card.

The 20-year-old Australian earned \$15,000 for her second victory of her rookie season to jump from sixth to fourth on the money list with \$76,290. The top 10 after the final

rything tied together today."

Boutier, also a two-time winner this season, closed with a 69. The former Duke player earned \$9,715 to move from second to first on the money list with \$107,876.

Green also won the Sara Bay Classic in April in Florida. Four years ago after graduating from high school in Perth, she devised a plan to reach the LPGA Tour.

"I set a plan and I wasn't going to college in the US or studying in Australia. I just said that I was turning professional and I wanted to be on the LPGA," Green said. "I've been dreaming about this for at least four years so to have it come true is awesome."

Green also received a \$10,000 diamond bracelet from Murphy-Pritard Jewelers.



Green

GOLF

three events will earn LPGA Tour cards.

"I'm really happy and excited, but it doesn't feel real quite yet," Green said. "I'm really pleased with how today turned out and I'm glad I shot a really good score to get the win."

With father Tau serving as her caddie, Green finished at 14-under 205 at Mystic Creek to beat France's Celine Boutier by a stroke.

"My ball-striking was definitely there today," Green said. "Going bogey-free on this course means eve-

FGA-K holds 18th round golf tournament

By Michelle Fe Santiago

Arab Times Staff
The Filipino Golfers Association in Kuwait (FGA-K) held its 18th round in the series of tournaments for the year 2017-2018 season at the Kuwait Golf and Country Club in Wafra. The first flight teed-off at 6:30 am to avoid the scorching heat during the day. It was a battle of precision,

strategy, stamina and wits. Ron Margate bagged the top spot after a grueling 9-hole round, submitting a net score of 5 under par 31.

The tournament was also a prelude to a series of practice games by the FGA-K members in preparation for the forthcoming 71st PAL interclub to be held on February 2018 in Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines.

The FGA-K will be fielding again 2-10 man team just like in the 70th tournament in Davao City.

The practice games continue with the next tournament on Sept 21 at the KGCC. The FGA-K is one of the most active Philippine sports organisations in Kuwait that has organised various charitable events to help raise funds for typhoon survi-

vors and less fortunate compatriots in the Philippines.

The group also holds a weekly golf clinic for beginners and other golf enthusiasts. To those who are interested to join the group may contact any of the FGA-K officers or members or check its page on Facebook under the name of Filipino Golfers Association, Kuwait.

Leishman fends off Rose to win BMW Champ'ship

Kelly claims 2nd PGA Tour Champions title

CHICAGO, Sept 18, (Agencies): Marc Leishman fired a final-round 67 on Sunday to complete a wire-to-wire victory in the BMW Championship, beating Justin Rose and Rickie Fowler by five strokes.

Australia's Leishman had seized control of the penultimate event in the US PGA Tour's FedEx Cup playoffs with a scintillating 62 on Thursday.

He started the fourth round at Conway Farms with a five stroke lead that twice dwindled to two shots over Rose before Leishman finished confidently, with birdies in three of the last four holes.

He rolled in a 19-footer from the fringe at the 72nd hole to celebrate his third US PGA Tour title with a 23-under par total of 261.

The victory was a vindication after Leishman was unable to close out a win two weeks ago at TPC Boston, where his challenge was doomed by

double bogey on the par-4 17th. On 17, the two-time US Open champion drove into a bush, chipped back to the fairway and three-putted after his ball ran to the back of the green.

The 50-year-old Kelly rebounded from a bogey on the par-5 13th with a birdie on the 15th — making the putt after being stung by a bee — and finished with three straight pars.

Kelly finished at 14-under 199. He began the round a stroke behind leaders McKenzie and Jerry Smith.

Janzen missed a chance for his second senior title after winning eight

times on the PGA Tour.

McKenzie, the Australian trying to become the first qualifier to win since 2012, dropped back with double bogeys on the par-3 14th and the 17th. He birdied the par-5 18th for a 71 that left him tied for third at 12 under with Tommy Armour III (67).

Charles Schwab Cup points leader Bernhard Langer (68) and Esteban Toledo (67) followed at 11 under. Smith had a 75 to finish six strokes back.

In Boise, Idaho, Chesson Hadley rallied to win the Albertsons Boise Open on Sunday to put himself in position

for fully exempt PGA Tour status half-way through the four-event Web.com Tour Finals.

Hadley shot a 6-under 65 at Hillcrest Country Club — birdieing Nos. 15-17 and closing with a par — for a one-stroke victory over Ted Potter Jr (67) and Jonathan Randolph (69).

His PGA Tour card already secured with a ninth-place finish on the Web.com Tour's regular-season money list, Hadley earned \$180,000 to overtake Brice Garnett for the No. 1 spot on the combined regular-season and Finals money list in a bid for fully exempt PGA Tour status. He also tops the Finals money list. If he takes either spot, he will also earn an exemption into The Players Championship.

Hadley finished at 16-under 268 for his second Web.com Tour victory of the season and fourth overall. He began the round five strokes behind leader Tyler Duncan.

Hadley, Potter and the other top-25 finishers on the Web.com regular-season money list have earned PGA Tour cards. They are competing against each other for tour priority, with regular-season earnings counting in their totals.

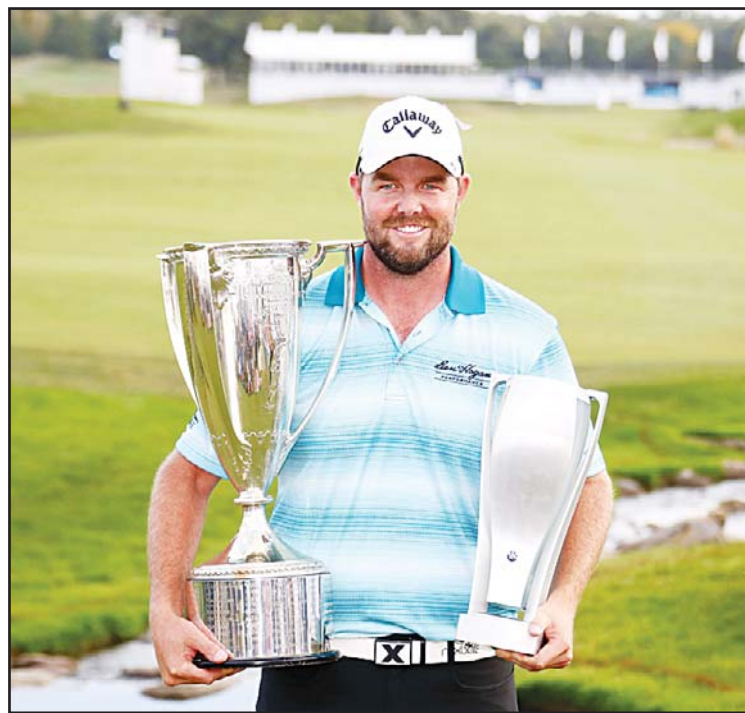
The others — Nos. 26-75 on the Web.com regular-season money list, Nos. 126-200 in the PGA Tour's FedEx Cup standings, and non-members with enough money to have placed in the top 200 in the FedEx Cup had they been eligible — are playing for an additional 25 cards.

Randolph wrapped up a card with his \$88,000 check.

Alex Cejka also clinched a card. He was fourth at 14 under after a 69.

Duncan had a 74 to tie for fifth at 12 under. He also locked up a tour card.

Six-time PGA Tour winner Hunter Mahan had a 74 to tie for 61st at 3 under. He has made \$21,320 in the two events after finishing 182nd in the FedEx Cup standings.



Marc Leishman of Australia poses with the Wadley Cup and the BMW Championship Trophy after winning the BMW Championship at Conway Farms Golf Club on Sept 17, in Lake Forest, Illinois. (AFP)



Champion Ron Margate (left), with a fellow golfer.

Isolated Turkmenistan holds 'lavish' opening ceremony

ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan, Sept 18, (AP): With a glitzy sports show and a multi-billion-dollar spending spree, isolated Turkmenistan wants to show itself to the world.

Turkmenistan, a gas-rich former Soviet nation in Central Asia, has comparatively little contact with the outside world and sees few foreign visitors. Its authoritarian government is regularly criticized by human rights organizations.

Keen to turn his country — which has never won an Olympic medal — into a sports power, President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov's administration has spent \$5 billion on arenas hosting the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games.

Previously a low-key offshoot of the Asian Games, the event was reimagined Sunday with a lavish opening ceremony that stressed Turkmenistan's love of animals, featuring acrobats on horseback and a dog handler leading the athletes' parade.

Berdimukhamedov, who hailed the games as "an event of huge social and political meaning" on Sunday before the ceremony, projects a sporty, all-action image. The cult of personality that surrounds his autocratic rule has included footage and photographs of him riding horses, flying helicopters, throwing knives, cycling, jogging and lifting weights.

Healthy lifestyles are promoted relentlessly. Last year, state employees were coerced into performing morning open-air fitness exercises, while the run-up to the games saw a ban on alcohol sales and a day when private cars were banned from the roads to encour-

age cycling.

The president — re-elected this year with more than 97 percent of the vote — is also a music lover who composed the official anthem of the games. In addition to the anthem, which received a rapturous reception from the crowd of mostly locals, songs also played praising Berdimukhamedov under his title of "Arkadag," Turkmen for "The Protector."

The spending on the games is a vast sum for a country of 5 million people which is mostly desert and has widespread poverty.

Besides the arenas which make up Ashgabat's so-called Olympic Village, the government also splashed out \$2.3 billion on an airport terminal shaped like a falcon. The pre-games construction was allegedly marred by what human rights groups called the mass demolition of local people's houses to make way for sports venues.

In the seven years since Turkmenistan was awarded the games, the price of natural gas — the country's only major export — has fallen, putting extra strain on government finances.

The games have been heavily promoted in Turkmenistan but are largely unknown internationally. Some of the Asia-Pacific region's bigger sporting powers, like Japan and Australia, sent relatively small delegations.

The first medals were awarded a day before the games officially began. Despite its lack of success at the Olympics, Turkmenistan racked up 16 gold medals Saturday — eight times more than any other country — all in Jiu-Jitsu and a type of traditional wrestling.

Spectacular and age-old sport of fierljeppen

Splashes galore as Frisian pole-jumpers reach for the sky

IT HEIDENSKIP, Netherlands, Sept 18, (AFP): At 22, Dutch pole-jumper Sytse Bokma is getting to the top of his game — literally. But on a muggy summer's afternoon in rural northern Netherlands, things just weren't going his way.

Time after time, he scurried up a 13-metre (43-foot) pole before losing his grip and crashing into the water with an almighty splash.

Welcome to the spectacular and age-old Frisian sport of fierljeppen.

Translated from Frisian — the second official language in The Netherlands — the word fierljeppen literally means "far-leaping".

It's a combination of pole vaulting and long jump. The athlete runs as fast as possible until reaching a ramp and leaping onto a carbon fibre pole, loosely anchored in the muddy bottom of a canal.

Grabbing on, the athlete tries to climb to the top of the pole, using his momentum to tip it forwards across a stretch of water up to 12 metres wide, and leap as far as possible on to a bank of specially prepared sand on the other side.

Well, that's the theory at least.

More often than not, the jump is aborted when the pole tips left or right instead of forward or the athlete's hands slip, resulting in a humiliating but spectacular dunk into the two-metre deep dug-out canal.

Each splash is met with a collective groan from spectators.

The athlete's technique is then intensely discussed in Frisian, accompanied by plates filled with mayonnaise-drizzled potato fries and coffee.

Nobody really knows how long ago fierljeppen started as a sport, but references in Dutch literature to men jumping across ditches reach back as far as the 16th century.

Local folklore tells of a man who hid a secret message in his ditch-jumping pole before crossing through enemy lines in 1575 during the Dutch Revolt against Spanish rule.

Farmers for hundreds of years used the method to cross from one patch of land called a polder to another, Kramer added.

The first official fierljeppen competition was held in August 1957 in

the Frisian town of Winsum. In 1978 the official Frysk Ljeppers Boun, the sport's official federation, was born.

The sport, however, remains relatively unknown — even in the rest

of The Netherlands — but was first introduced to the world in 2007 when contestants taking part in the popular US reality show "The Amazing Race" had to leap across a ditch during the



An athlete takes part in a Frisian pole-jumping 'fierljeppen' competition in It Heidenskip, in the Dutch province of Friesland, on Aug 16, 2017. (AFP)

Dutch leg.

Now there are about 250 men and women jumpers competing across three tiers in some 60 competitions every summer.

Together with the Frisian language, ice-skating and the ubiquitous black-and-white cattle that carry the same name as the region, fierljeppen is a source of pride in the area.

It's therefore a bit of a sore point that the current record of 22.21 metres is held by a non-Frisian Dutchman, Jaco de Groot, who recently surpassed the long-standing winning leap of local hero, Bart Helmholt.

Back at the competition, things weren't going so well for Bokma, ranked in second place in the league.

Slated as one of the sport's young and upcoming stars, he had several failed attempts that saw him landing in the drink to groans from the crowd.

Eventually Bokma finished third, behind another local favourite Ysbrand Galama who was locked in an intense battle with current Frisian champion Nard Brandsma, who posted a winning jump of 20.72 metres.