

2025 U17



August 18-20

Alberta Springs Golf Resort

Saylor May

2024 Alberta Open
Champion



Q: When you reflect on your victory at the Alberta U-17 Girls Championship at Alberta Springs Golf Resort, what memories are most vivid?

May: "I just remember I played some super solid golf. I made some really good swings that week. I was competing against one of my good friends, Kali, and we usually have a good time out there going back and forth. And obviously, it was nice to get the win over her."

Q: You described that second day as 'stressful,' and Kali applied plenty of pressure, chipping away at your four-stroke lead. How were you able to ultimately close it out?

May: "On the last hole, I had a two-shot lead. She made a great birdie, but I was able to make a par from the sand. She'd gone long on a back pin, and that's not the place you want to be. But she made an unbelievable chip and she actually almost made it. She went first so I knew that sand shot, I had to get it on and two-putt for a par. My sand shot rolled down a tier, so I didn't really have an easy two-putt in front of me. But I was able to knock the first one close and just tap it in for par."

Q: You've been working hard to improve your short game. Was that sand shot a good example of all that practice starting to pay off?

May: "Yeah, for sure. It makes you feel so much better when you know that you can trust the shot. You don't have to feel shaky over it. That was definitely something I'd struggle with before is I'd put so much pressure on one shot as opposed to just trusting myself and knowing that I'm capable of hitting that shot. That was a big part of that, just knowing that I had that shot in the bag and I was able to execute."

Q: You won the Alberta Girls U-15 Championship in 2023. To jump up an age division and win another provincial title, what does that mean to you?

May: "It means a lot, especially to go out and defend it. I feel like I proved to myself that I deserve to be there, so it feels great. There are so many great U-17 girls that were playing and most of them are my friends, so I always have a lot of fun in that tournament. Obviously, the next goal would be to win U-19s this year."

May, a junior member at Pine Hills Golf Club in Rocky Mountain House, won a showdown with one of her close pals for U-17 bragging rights. May finished with a two-round score of even-par 144, one stroke up on Kali Yeske of Glencoe Golf & Country Club.

U17 Girls Past Champions

2024 – Saylor May

2023 – Tessa Ion

2022 – Clara Ding

2021 – Kalee Seto

2020 – Georgia Barr

Patrick McLarty

2024 Alberta U17 Boys
Champion



Q: When you reflect on your victory at the Alberta Boys U-17 Championship at Alberta Springs Golf Resort, what memories are most vivid?

McLarty: "Mostly the back nine for me during the second round. I was making a lot of big putts coming down the stretch. At the start, I wasn't getting much going, but I was just steady. And then I made some big putts. I birdied Nos. 10, 11 and 12 to tie it up with Bray (Rogalczyk) and then I made a couple more birdies and that was the end of it."

Q: What was the key to your putting performance that week?

McLarty: "I had my men's club championship the day before and I ended up winning that, so I got a Scotty Cameron as a prize. It's funny because I was thinking, 'Well, I might as well try it.' So my first time actually using it was at that tournament. It went decent the first day so I decided to stick with it, and then it just really clicked on that second day."

Q: What does it mean to now have a provincial title to your name?

McLarty: "It feels pretty sweet, just knowing that I'm a provincial champ and that I've actually won a pretty big-name tournament now. That's a good feeling."

Q: In an interview at Alberta Springs, you mentioned that you've been playing the age-group championships for several years and always looked up to the U-17s ... To win that category, was it everything you imagined it could be?

McLarty: "Yeah, I remember as a U-13, just being on the putting green and seeing the older kids, or coming in after and seeing the older guys tee off, and just thinking, 'That would be really cool to be in that opportunity one day.' And yeah, it was an unreal experience."

McLarty racked up 13 birdies, offset by only three bogeys, during this two-day showdown. A junior member at Highwood Golf in High River, he ultimately finished three shots better than any of his buddies at 10-under 134.

U17 Boys Past Champions

2024 – Patrick McLarty

2023 – Charlie Gillespie

2022 – Connor Czirjak

2021 – Brett Jones

2020 – Ethan Howes

Alberta Springs

Set to Host Inaugural U17 Championship

By MacKenzie Baustad

After five years of Alberta Springs hosting the U17, U15, and U13 Championship, Alberta Golf is excited to return for another year—this time with the first-ever standalone U17 Championship, taking place August 18-20. Alberta Springs is a true hidden gem located just west of Red Deer, AB. This 18-hole oasis is always a pleasure to visit, thanks to a dedicated team that continually enhances the course, facilities, and overall golf experience. With 4 tee boxes and a new additional tee to holes 9 & 10 the course now offers an even more positive experience for all golfers. These updates make the holes more approachable and enjoyable, especially for those still learning or seeking a less challenging round.



This year, the new tees will not come into play for the U17 players. Instead, they will be playing from further back to better reflect their skill level and the competitive pathway they are on. To accompany the longer yardage, an additional day will be added. These changes are designed to elevate the competitive atmosphere of the event and make it eligible for WAGR (World Amateur Golf Ranking), which will help promote and showcase the players internationally.

Jaxon Lynn, Assistant Professional, gave some advice for players facing the longer yardage: "It's a lot less about just ripping driver everywhere. You have to be a little more methodical. It's a better golf course from the back tees, but one step back can add a few extra shots." This will be a new challenge for players who have participated in this event in the past, as they'll need to adjust their approach. Nick Robichaud, the Head Superintendent, will be ready in August with the usual firm greens, and players should expect healthy rough outlining the fairways. Lynn added, "Nick always has fun with the course conditions whenever they're here, so this year, he can definitely do something special."

Alberta Golf Juniors' preparation varies across players, and with the new tee arrangement, it will allow them to approach the course with a different game plan and potentially see the course from a new perspective. Another valuable piece of advice from Lynn was, "Know where to miss – hole one is a great example. If you miss right, you're probably making bogey, but if you miss 100 yards left, you can still make birdie or par." Understanding where your miss is and knowing how to manage it can be a huge advantage in golf. Developing this strategic mindset is key to improving consistency and excelling in competitive play, as it helps players minimize mistakes and make smarter decisions under pressure. By learning to embrace the areas where they can afford to miss, players can avoid big numbers and stay in control of their rounds, ultimately boosting their confidence and performance on the course.

The entire team at Alberta Springs, including the volunteer community, has played a pivotal role in the success of this championship throughout the years. The volunteers and the surrounding community have been integral to the championship's success, and when asked what fuels this support, Lynn responded, "We've been pretty fortunate; a lot of our members have been coming back for 20-plus years, so whenever we ask them for anything, they are more than happy to volunteer and support such a good golf tournament." As Lynn, reflected, "It's been a privilege, really pretty honored to host all the great young individuals that come out here, yet they are always kind and respectful, and we welcome having them back." The volunteers

and staff consistently go above and beyond, welcoming players and ensuring they feel at home, with all the necessary items—yes, even a giant table of candy! This event has become a staple for many players and will be remembered for the amazing culture and sense of community that surrounds the property.

In this time of golf's rising popularity, Alberta Golf is fortunate to have a course that consistently welcomes the junior players year after year. This championship will serve as the perfect backdrop for the inaugural U17 Championship, reflecting the growing excitement

and engagement in the sport. These up-and-coming golfers will be provided a with an equal playing field, where they can showcase their talents and compete at a high level, marking an important milestone in their development and the future of golf in Alberta. ■

"We've been pretty fortunate; a lot of our members have been coming back for 20-plus years, so whenever we ask them for anything, they are more than happy to volunteer and support such a good golf tournament." As Lynn, reflected, "It's been a privilege, really pretty honored to host all the great young individuals that come out here, yet they are always kind and respectful, and we welcome having them back."