

2025 U15 & U13



August 30-31
Lakeside Golf Club

Sela Ogada

2024 Alberta U15 Girls
Champion



Q: When you reflect on your victory at the Alberta U-15 Girls Championship at Alberta Springs Golf Resort, what memories are most vivid?

Ogada: "Before that tournament, I'd never broken 70 before, so I wanted to do that. And I wanted to win. The last time I played that tournament, I finished last, so I wanted to come back and do well. In the first round, I was making a lot of putts. And then, I was thinking, 'If I just keep on making pars, I'll break 70.' But I was like, 'I can't think like this.' So I tried making more birdies. I bogeyed the last hole, which is annoying, but I still had 67."

Q: Knowing it was a goal of yours, what was that day like, to know that you were on the brink of your first round in the 60s?

Ogada: "It kind of felt unreal, in a way. I don't know how to describe it. I was just hitting a lot of shots close and just making a lot of putts. I'd never played that well before."

Q: What do you learn about yourself on a day like that?

Ogada: "It raises my expectations and I feel like I can do more on the golf course and score lower and just play better. I never realized I could play that well and I had the game to compete with really good players and win at really big events. So it gives me a lot of confidence."

Q: You always hear talk at all levels of golf about how difficult it is follow up a great round ... How did you handle that challenge?

Ogada: "I tried taking it one shot at a time and staying present. Whenever I was getting too ahead of myself, I tried to stay in the present and that helps, because I wasn't thinking of my score. It was, 'OK, what do I need to do on this shot?' I wasn't trying to think, 'Oh, I have to play as well as I did in the first round.' Those thoughts definitely came up, so it was a bit hard, but I tried to stay in the present."

Q: What does it mean to be a provincial champion?

Ogada: "It feels really good, especially since the last time, I didn't play very well. It always feels nice winning, especially an event this big. That was probably one of my favourite events that I've won."

Ogada, a junior member at Sirocco Golf Club in Calgary, surged to an early lead thanks to a career-low 67 in the opening round. She continued to roll on Day 2 and finished 11 shots clear of the competition at 6-under 138, the lowest score among the girls in any age category.

U15 Girls Past Champions

2024 – Sela Ogada

2023 – Saylar May

2022 – Eileen Park

2021 – Aastha Savadatti

2020 – Jayla Kucy

Bennett Love

2024 Alberta U15 Boys
Champion



Q: When you reflect on your victory at the Alberta Boys U-15 Championship at Alberta Springs Golf Resort, what memories are most vivid?

Love: “Definitely my back nine on the second day. I almost shot 29. I ended up shooting 30. It was pretty crazy. I haven’t felt that very many times playing golf.”

Q: That is a heck of a nine! What was working so well?

Love: “I was sinking lots of long putts and the driver was working, too. I had one hole — it’s Hole 4, because we started on the back nine ... It’s a horseshoe hole and most people just lay it up with an iron out to the left, but I hit driver up over the trees and hit it in the middle of the fairway between the two ponds. I think that was a momentum-changer for me, just with how much confidence it gave me to hit it there. I ended up making eagle on that hole and went on a run from there.”

Q: Since most of us will never shoot a score like 30 over nine holes, how would you describe the sort of groove you were in?

Love: “It felt like I couldn’t get out of it. It just kept going. On Hole 6, I had a long putt and made that down the hill. I figured maybe it was going stop there, if I missed that putt, but I made it and just kept rolling. I felt like I didn’t really have to think about anything. I just hit the shots and I knew the ball was going to go somewhere near the hole.”

Q: What does it mean to you to win your first provincial golf title?

Love: “It’s really cool to represent Alberta and be one of the few players that have won that event.”

Love, a junior member at Red Deer Golf & Country Club, pulled off an epic comeback with a fantastic finish. Playing in the fourth-last group on the final day, Love rocketed into top spot with a spin of 7-under 65, the lowest score from any competitor in any age group. He finished 36 holes in 7-under 137 en route to a two-shot triumph.

U15 Boys Past Champions

2024 – Bennett Love

2023 – Harrison Kiziak

2022 – Peter Hlushak

2021 – Tyler Kidd

2020 – Jon Vinge

Camilla Ruesga-Rojas

2024 Alberta U13 Girls
Champion



Q: When you reflect on your victory at the Alberta U-13 Girls Championship at Alberta Springs Golf Resort, what memories are most vivid?

Ruesga-Rojas: "It was really exciting. Just seeing my parents there while watching me play golf, that's mostly what I remember. They were encouraging me."

Q: What was the strongest part of your game that week?

Ruesga-Rojas: "My putting was great. It was really helping me a lot. It was a saving a bunch of holes."

Q: Going into that tournament, what was your game-plan?

Ruesga-Rojas: "It was basically to try to keep my score in the 70s. Obviously, the first day wasn't that good. But the second day, I achieved it."

Q: To win a provincial championship, what does that mean to you?

Ruesga-Rojas: "Oh, it felt great. My parents were proud of me, and I was also proud of me. But you can always do better."

Q: What are your future goals in the game of golf?

Ruesga-Rojas: "I would love to go to university in the U.S. playing golf and get a scholarship."

Ruesga-Rojas, who lives in Edmonton, completed two rounds in 19-over 163, good for a one-stroke victory. She was especially steady on the second day, with nothing worse than a bogey on a tidy scorecard that added up to 79.

U13 Girls Past Champions

2024 – Camilla Ruesga-Rojas

2023 – Hannah Thomas

2022 – Aleah Shields

2021 – Eileen Park

2020 – Eileen Park

Oscar Gosgnach

2024 Alberta U13 Boys
Champion



Q: When you reflect on your victory at the Alberta Boys U-13 Championship at Alberta Springs Golf Resort, what memories are most vivid?

Gosgnach: "I remember that I made a lot of five-footers that were kind of big, and I thought my irons were pretty accurate. And then the trophy I got was really nice, so that was cool."

Q: To bury a bunch of five-foot putts, how did that help you to build and maintain momentum?

Gosgnach: "I felt like if I made a five-footer for par and then I go to the next hole and have another five-footer, then the last hole was really a boost of confidence that I would make that putt. And then it kept snowballing, with more and more confidence building."

Q: How did you handle the pressure or the nerves of teeing off with the lead on the second day?

Gosgnach: "The course wasn't playing too long, so I didn't have too many long clubs in. And I made a couple shorter putts at the beginning of that round, and that helped to calm my nerves."

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

Gosgnach: "It's pretty cool to think that, 'Well, I won the provincial championship, so theoretically I'm the best in Alberta.' It's cool to have that in the back of my mind."

Q: What are your future goals in the game of golf?

Gosgnach: "Just try to get as good as I can and try to have a successful career, probably."

Gosgnach, a junior member at Royal Mayfair Golf Club in Edmonton, set a sizzling pace with an under-par round on the opening day and never looked back. He celebrated a five-shot victory at even-par 144.

U13 Boys Past Champions

2024 – Oscar Gosgnach

2023 – Jayden Arnold

2022 – Chase Strang

2021 – Jalen Apedoe

2020 – Peter Hlushak

Lakeside

Looks to Make Their Mark on Junior Golf

By MacKenzie Baustad

With junior golf on the rise, the next generation of players is gaining more opportunities to compete at a high level. For the first time, Alberta Golf's U15 and U13 divisions will have their own standalone championship, separate from the U17 Championship, set for August 30 & 31 at Lakeside Golf Club in Chestermere, Alberta, just east of Calgary. The course offers the ideal setting for young players still developing their competitive skills, providing an exciting and challenging environment to test their game. As the sport continues to grow, events like this offer valuable experiences that help aspiring junior golfers take the next step in their journey.



Lakeside Golf Club is also a proud host of a McLennan Ross Alberta Junior Tour Stop, taking place on July 14th. As one of Alberta's longest-running junior tours, it offers players of all ages and skill levels the opportunity to compete in a welcoming yet competitive environment. Designed to introduce juniors to tournament play while reinforcing the fundamentals of the game. The tour serves as an excellent steppingstone for players aiming for higher levels of competition, as well as for those seeking a low-stress environment to build their skills and confidence. For players preparing for the U15 & U13 Championship, this event provides an ideal opportunity to gain valuable course experience and develop confidence in a competitive setting.

Lakeside Golf Club has long been committed to junior golf development, Head Professional Tyler Willner, who started the junior program at Lakeside Golf Club in 2019, is passionate about providing young players with the resources they need to succeed. "Hosting events like this and welcoming some of the brightest up-and-coming stars—it's exciting," said Willner. "Hopefully, we'll see some of these juniors go on to play college golf, or maybe even further into PGA or LPGA territory. It's amazing to witness the future of the game and know that golf's next generation is in great hands."

The layout of Lakeside Golf Club makes it an ideal venue for junior competition, offering both a challenge and a fair test for developing players. Unlike tight, tree-lined courses that can intimidate younger golfers, Lakeside provides a more open feel, giving juniors the confidence to focus on their game. "It suits well for kids because there's not a lot of bushes," Willner explained. "I think it takes a little bit of pressure off knowing that you're not playing a tree-lined golf course where you're standing up on the tee and shaking."

The course design also ensures that success isn't solely determined by distance off the tee, making it a balanced test for all types of players. "It's not a golf course where you can just overpower it," Willner said. "There are holes where you can rip it if you can, but you'll hear more about how many putts players had." With strategic play taking precedence over power, Lakeside levels the playing field, giving shorter hitters a fair chance and emphasizing chipping and putting over pure distance. This ensures an exciting and balanced competition as well as a welcoming environment where golfers of all abilities can thrive. It's a blend of challenging yet accessible golf that attracts not only players but also a community eager to support and encourage the next generation of golfers.

Tyler Willner's commitment to junior golf is clear, since launching the junior program in 2019 with just 40 players, the program has grown to over 150 juniors. Meanwhile, the ladies' league now has 140 players, and the men's league exceeds 170 players. "The game of golf has really grown, and we've definitely benefited from that," said Willner.

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By hosting both the McLennan Ross Alberta Junior Tour and the U15 & U13 Championship, Lakeside Golf Club continues to play a key role in junior golf development in Alberta. These events not only provide a competitive platform but also reinforce the club's dedication

to growing the game at the grassroots level. With the support of Alberta Golf and clubs like Lakeside, junior golfers across the province now have more opportunities than ever to develop their skills, gain competitive experience, and lay the foundation for a bright future in the sport. These events shape the next generation of players—one swing at a time. ■