

## **Carter one shout out of lead in 14-under division of SRM**

By: Steve Hemphill

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Grace Carter kept the ball rolling in the right direction after winning last year's 14-under girls title at the Scott Robertson Memorial.

She won an AJGA event for the first time last August at the AM Technical Solutions Junior in suburban Pittsburgh, and placed in the top five in three other events

"It's been going pretty well," Carter said Saturday after finishing her weather-shortened round at Roanoke Country Club. ... "Winning here last year gave me a lot of confidence.

In Sunday's final round, Carter will be in the final group of the 14-under division just one shot out of the lead as she attempts to defend her title.

Carter shot 38 for nine holes on Saturday. Both the boys and girls playing in the 14-under tournaments had their second rounds reduced to nine holes due to thunderstorms that forced play to be suspended for nearly an hour. The 18-hole finale for the 12-player field gets under way at noon Sunday.

Carter, from Jupiter, Florida, is chasing second-round leader Alexandra Phung of Forest Hills, New York, shot 36 on Saturday, is at plus-4. Carter and Hayden Knapp of Gansevoort, New York, are both one shot back. Carter said she looks forward to getting back to 18 holes

"I actually like to play more holes because I have more time to advance," she said. "Tomorrow, I need to not think as much and not second-guess my shots. I have to feel confident and execute."

In the 15-18 division, Avery McCreery of Wilmington, Delaware, extended her lead to seven strokes by following up her first-round 64 with a 2-under-par 69 to go to 9-under par with one round to play. McCreery had not posted a sub-70 round at the SRM in the two trips she had made to Roanoke. She said the experiences of the past two years have led to what is happening this weekend

"I really love this event," she said. "It's a great event. ... This is kind of where everything started for me as far as junior golf and getting into bigger events. I qualified my first year and ever since then I've been able to come back, which is really special.

"I obviously really appreciate everyone here. I appreciate my competitors. I especially appreciate the tournament committee and all the volunteers that can make this possible. I'm extremely thankful."

Three other girls are under par going into the final round -- Ann-Sophie Bourgault of Naples, Florida (minus-2), Angelina Tolentino of Mount Laurel, New Jersey (minus-1) and Madison Messimer of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina (minus-1).