

Phung holds off defending champion to SRC 14-under girls title

By: Steve Hemphill

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Alexandra Phung didn't flinch when she was asked to say a few words during the trophy presentation at the Scott Robertson Memorial golf tournament, presented by Janney.

She thanked the tournament officials, the Roanoke Country Club members, the volunteers, and the other competitors. She even gave a shout out to her older sister Amelie for following her around after finishing her own round.

Her remarks were reminiscent of her last nine holes of the 14-under division tournament, which led to her winning by two shots over defending champion Grace Carter of Jupiter, Florida.

Phung took a one-shot lead into Sunday's round but was tied with Carter as they teed off of the 16th hole. Phung carded her seventh straight par on the par-3, but Carter finished with a four, giving Phung the solo lead. Then on 17, Phung picked up her first birdie of the day to go up by two shots. She then matched pars with Carter on the last hole to clinch victory.

Phung shot a 1-over-par 72 and finished the tournament at 5 over par.

"My round today was pretty calm," said Phung, who is from Forest Hills, New York. "But since I couldn't get a birdie until the 17th hole, it was also quite stressful. But other than that, it was a great round."

Phung's win in Roanoke was the second high-profile tournament championship this month. She won her first AJGA event the first week of the month at the Wisconsin-based AJGA Junior All-Star at Meadowbrook in a playoff.

She also finished fourth at another AGJA event in Florida in April.

"Yeah, I've been on a little bit of a roll," Phung said. "I've been playing well."

The competition between Phung and Carter was back and forth on the final nine holes. Carter had claimed a share of the lead after getting birdies on the 11th and 14th holes. Phung managed to pull away on the last three holes. After that, all that was left was to give her speech. That part was also stress-free since she already knew what she wanted to say.

“It was a great experience,” Phung said before the awards ceremony. “Everyone here was very hospitable, and the lunch here was great and the desserts also were great. Overall, all the members and everybody was great. I really enjoyed my weekend here.”