

McCrery leads wire-to-wire to win girls 15-18 division at Scott Robertson Memorial

By: Steve Hemphill

May 19, 2024

Avery McCrery was still trying to find her footing in the junior golf arena when she traveled down from her home in Wilmington, Delaware, to Roanoke Country Club in April 2021 to attempt to secure one of two spots available for the following month's Scott Robertson Memorial golf tournament, presented by Janney.

After a bogey and double bogey to start the back nine that day, McCrery followed that up with a birdie to help calm things down, then carded pars the rest of the way.

It was good enough to earn her medalist honors for the day by one stroke and secure a spot in the tournament -- the first high-level junior event of her young career.

Fast forward to Sunday afternoon, and McCrery achieved another first -- winning her first high-level tournament. Only this time, there was no need to regroup.

McCrery turned what had been a seven-stroke lead going into the final round to a 13-stroke win after a final round 4-under-par 67. The 13-shot margin ties the tournament's all-time record for the 15-18 girls division.

"It was kind of a unique weekend, being that I finished 13-under -- that's a lot for three days," McCrery said. "Being 7-under after the first day helped. Usually, I'm around a couple under. So, definitely it was different. Things just kind of clicked this week."

McCrery, a rising senior who has verbally committed to play golf at Duke and plans to sign with the Blue Devils, had one of those weekends every golfer hopes for, carding 16 birdies with just three bogeys.

"I just tried to stay in my lane, take it shot by shot and not put too much pressure on myself," McCrery said. "That's the game plan I stuck with, and it worked out for me this week."

Madison Messimer of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, shot 72 on Sunday to finish second at even par for the tournament. Ann-Sophie Bourgault of Naples Florida, and Angelina Tolentino of Mount Laurel, New Jersey tied for third at plus-1.

In the two previous years at the SRM, McCreary's best score was 70. She bettered that result every day in 2024.

"Every year, I've improved playing here," said McCreary, who plans to study finance in college. "I've played here a lot, and I keep coming back because I really like this event."