CU's Kari qualifies for U.S. Publinks

Former Broomfield standout Dorans comes up short

By Gary Baines For the Camera Boulder Daily Camera

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LONE TREE -- Meaghan Kari is only 21, but she was the old-timer among the golfers who qualified for the U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links Championship at Lone Tree Golf Club on Thursday.

The University of Colorado player survived a playoff to advance to the U.S. Women's Publinks for the second consecutive year. Kari drained a 7-foot downhill putt for par on the first extra hole to join Allie Johnston of Castle Rock as the competitors who emerged from the three-golfer playoff.

Johnston was one of four high school golfers out of the five national qualifiers, making Kari the oldest of the bunch that will compete in the U.S. Women's Publinks June 27-July 2 in Bandon, Ore.

"I was really nervous" in sudden death, said the CU senior-to-be from Windsor, Calif. "I've been in playoffs before, and there's always that adrenalin, that nervous excitement. But it was cool. It's fun to be in playoffs. You don't do it very often."

While Somin Lee of Denver (1-under-par 71), her Overland High School teammate SeungHa Choi (75) and Shannon Lubar of Littleton (76) joined Kari (77) and Johnston (77) in advancing, the odd player out in the three-person playoff was Molly Dorans of Erie.

Dorans, a Broomfield High School graduate who now competes for Montana State, came up well short of the green with her approach shot in sudden death, then had to settle for a bogey after missing a 25-foot putt.

For Kari, returning to the national Publinks is a highlight after a frustrating college season at CU.

She was in 10th place after the first two rounds of CU's Heather Farr Memorial Invitational in Erie, but was one of five Buff players involved in a three-car accident shortly after leaving Colorado National Golf Club.

Kari had to withdraw before the final round, and she competed in only one tournament the remainder of the college season.

"I was recovering from that (car accident) for a while," she said. "That took me out for the (rest of the fall) season. And in the spring season I was just kind of up and down trying to get back into it after spending so much time off."

Qualifying for the U.S. Publinks "was good for me because I hadn't been playing so well," Kari added. "This was kind of a confidence booster."

U.S. Women's Amateur

Public Links Qualifying

At Par-72 Lone Tree GC

Qualifiers

Somin Lee, Denver 35-36--71

SeungHa Choi, Aurora 40-35--75

Shannon Lubar, Littleton 37-39--76

Allie Johnston, Castle Rock 39-38--77 Meaghan Kari, Windsor, Calif. 38-39--77 Alternates (in order) Molly Dorans, Erie 40-37--77 Tory Bauman, Bayside, Wis. 38-40--78 Failed to Qualify Jessie Joachim, Hudson 41-38--79 Taylor Buck, Littleton 41-39--80 Jenna Zamprelli, Laramie, Wyo. 40-41--81 Kaylee Koeppen, Scottsbluff, Neb. 40-41--81 Bryce Schroeder, Pueblo 41-41--82 Shannon L. Lutynski, Castle Rock 42-41--83 Kasha Scott, Cherry Hills Village 42-43--85 Paige Crawford, Colorado Springs 42-43--85 M. Marquardt, Bellingham, Wash. 45-42--87 Sally Lawrence, Englewood 46-44--90 Melissa Olson, Marana, Ariz. 41-50--91 Vickie Brown, Aurora 47-46--93 Maren Scoggins, Denver 48-45--93 Brandi Holmes, Cody, Wyo. 50-52--102 Shannon Miller, Colo. Springs 50-56--106

Susan Beck, Highlands Ranch WD

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