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GSGA juniors face off against Palmetto State

Submitted by Georgia State Golf Association

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— The 34th annual Georgia-South Carolina Junior Challenge Match is scheduled for July 17-18 at The Reserve at Lake Keowee Club in Sunset, S.C.
The two-day event consists of eight singles matches per day. Each match is worth one point, and both teams are awarded a half point for matches that are all square after 18 holes.
Teams are composed of the top eight finishers from each stateâ€™s 2009 Junior Championship. Any necessary player substitutions follow the order of finish as well.
Golfers were eligible for the Georgia Junior Championship if they were between the ages of 14 and 17 at the time of the Championship (June 22-24), are Georgia residents and Georgia State Golf Association members or dependents of GSGA members.
This interstate competition, which alternates between the two states each year, was the first of its kind when it started in 1976.
Georgia owns a 21-12 advantage in the all-time series and has won four of the past five matches, including an 11 1â„„2-4 1â„„2 victory in 2008 at Hawks Ridge Golf Club in Ball Ground. The Peach State squad holds a slight 9-8 series lead when the event is held in the Palmetto State.
Georgia has a distinguished list of past competitors, including PGA Tour professionals Davis Love III, Gene Sauers, Bob Tway and Larry Mize and Georgia Amateur Champions Bill Bergin (1981), Carter Mize (1993-94), Jack Croyle (2000), Jonathan Shiflet (2002), Brian Harman (2005), Harris English (2007) and Russell Henley (2008-09).
The Reserve at Lake Keowee was designed by Jack Nicklaus and opened in 2002. The head golf professional is Bo Bowden and the club manager is Frank Santoro.
Georgiaâ€™s team will feature eight new faces as there are no returning players on this yearâ€™s squad. South Carolina has just one returning player, Stephen Behr of Florence, who competed in 2007.
Team Georgia will be anchored by 2009 Georgia Junior Champion Scott Wolfes of St. Simons Island. Wolfes posted rounds of 68-66-67 to capture the Georgia Junior by four strokes at Sea Island Golf Clubâ€™s Retreat Course in June.
Other team members, in order of their finish at the Georgia Junior, include Michael Garretson of Acworth (3rd), Will Evans of McDonough (4th), Jack Walsh of Lawrenceville (5th), Anders Albertson of Woodstock (T-6th), Gus Wagoner of Duluth (T-6th), Henry Mabbett of Griffin (T-6th) and Ty Howze of Hahira (T-9th). Albertson, who tied for eighth in the 2008 Georgia Public Links Championship, is currently competing in the U.S. Public Links Championship in Norman, Okla. If he advances in the match play bracket, he will be replaced in the Georgia lineup by Zach Hartman of St. Simons Island, who tied for ninth at the Georgia Junior.
Four members of Team Georgia â€" Howze, Mabbett, Wagoner and Wolfes â€" competed in last weekâ€™s Georgia Amateur Championship at Country Club of Columbus. Wolfes made the 36-hole cut and finished tied for 48th overall.
Log on to gsga.org for daily results from this event.

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