

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fontenot dominates at USSSA State Championship, Governor's Games

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LAFAYETTE, La.—In a weekend in which hardly anything, from the weather to the course conditions at the Wetlands, seemed consistent, Kale Fontenot's play at the Mizuno USSSA Louisiana State Championships/Governor's Games was beyond consistent.

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Fontenot, of Lafayette, performed marvelously during his final event on the Boys 12-14 circuit, shooting an opening round 72 and a final round 69 to finish at -3 (141) and to claim the intermediate division state title. Fontenot is the only golfer in the entire field to finish the weekend below par.

George Trappey, of Lake Charles, claimed second place in the group by shooting 152, one stroke better than third-place finisher Adam Trahan, of Crowley.

"I hit my driver well and my wedges close, so I didn't have to rely on making long putts," Fontenot, a student at Ascension Episcopal School, said. "I didn't have any double bogies. I didn't make a whole lot of putts (Saturday), but I just kept rolling them (in the final round). I was confident, and they stayed on the line, and they went in."

The Boys 15-18 division was the scene of an epic comeback

Connor Welsh, of Lake Charles, erased a seven-stroke deficit in the final day to win the senior division state title at +1 (145). Welsh shot a 71 in the second round to overtake Tyler Garrett for the top spot. Garrett, of Emerson, Arkansas, shot 67 in the opening round to take a commanding lead into the second round, but an 80 on Sunday sunk his championship bid, forcing him to settle for runner-up honors at +3.

Canon Clark, of Lafayette, finished in third place at +5.

"I was focusing on hitting fairways and greens and taking opportunities as they were given to me," Welsh, a recent graduate of St. Louis Catholic High School said. "I was surprised when I saw the 67 was posted. I knew I couldn't control what (Garrett) did. I just had to go out and played my game, and that's what I did. My ball-striking was good, and I gave myself a lot of good looks."

Welsh, who will be matriculating at Springhill University in Mobile, Alabama, this fall, says he's proud to end his USSSA career with a state title. He also has advice for others who are continuing on the Mizuno USSSA Tour.

“Keep playing,” Welsh said. “The more experience you get here, the better you’ll get.”

McKenzie Leduff, of Lake Charles, is the state champion in the Girls 15-18 division. Leduff shot a +4 (148) en route to the senior division championship. Kylie O’Brien, of Zachary, claimed second place honors by shooting 162.

What makes Leduff’s victory more impressive is that this tournament was her first event after battling dehydration.

“I recently came back from a trip to the hospital, and I had to take a week break,” Leduff, a rising senior at St. Louis Catholic School, said. “The first day back, I had trouble with my rhythm. My timing was off. I had to stay out there for two hours. I took plenty of breaks and drank plenty of water, and I was able to come back pretty quickly.”

Luke Baudoin, of Rayne, won the state title in the Boys 9-11 group. He shot +5 (77) in the two-day, 18-hole event, beating runner-up Spencer Hagan, of Lafayette, by nine strokes and third-place finisher Noah Chauvin, of Broussard, by 11 strokes.

“My swing felt really good,” Baudoin, a student at Mire Elementary School, said. “I had been pulling the ball, but I haven’t been pulling it as much. My dad has been helping me with not swinging across my body and with following through straight.”

Corrine Landry, of Lafayette, won the state title in the Girls 12-14 division by shooting a 178. Runner-up Audrey Pharr, also of Lafayette, shot a 196.

Caroline Endsley, of Youngsville, won the state title in the Girls 9-11 group by shooting 103 in the 18-hole event.

The final event of the 2018-19 Mizuno USSSA Junior Golf Tour is the 2019 Mizuno USSSA National Championships. The tournament will take place August 9-11 at the Orange County National Golf Center in Orlando, Florida. Registration for the tournament is open at www.ussagolf.com.