

Beat: Sports

SOUTH KOREA DOMINATES WORLD LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP

WORLD LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP 2016

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USPA NEWS - J[13 March 2016] Dongguan, China"": World No.35 Lee Jung-Min of South Korea stormed to her eighth career title with a one stroke victory over compatriots Lee Seung-Hyun, Kim Bo-Kyung and Ji Han Sol in the World Ladies Championship at Mission Hills Resort Dongguan in China.

Despite dropping two strok

It was a nerve biting finish as the clubhouse leader Lee dropped into a three-way share of the lead with namesake Lee and Ji at nine-under-par after making bogey on the final hole. She then watched as Lee then made the same mistake.

After Kim ended on eight under par, Ji needed to birdie the difficult par-4 18th to tie. Although she hit an excellent approach shot that just edged the hole, she pushed her birdie putt of 12 feet wide of the hole, meaning that Lee could take home the individual title and USD 105,000 in prize money.

There was double cause for celebration as Lee also won the concurrent team competition with partner Ko Jin-Young. An aggregate score of 12-under-par put the South Korean pair 15 strokes ahead of the French duo Gwladys Nocera and Céline Herbin, with Chinese Taipei duo Lin Tzi-Chi and Kuo Ai-Chen five strokes further behind in third.

"I was very surprised to win because I didn't feel that I played my best and I wasn't in the leading group," said Lee, 24, who earned three titles on the Korean LPGA Tour in 2015, having turned professional in 2009. "My main goal this year is to get my best ever score on the KLPGA Tour."

Lee completed nine holes of her third round earlier in the morning and started the final round three shots off the lead, but overtook her rivals with birdies on the third, fourth, sixth, ninth, 11th, 13th, 14th and 15th holes.

Joint runner-up Kim had seven birdies in a final round 69 while Lee Seung-Hyun, a three-time winner on the Korean LPGA Tour, returned a final round 71 along with the first round leader Ji.

Another South Korean player, Oh Ji-Hyun, finished outright fifth on seven-under-par, while China's Liu Yu and Chamchoi Saraporn of Thailand tied for sixth place.

South Korean Lee Min-Young was eighth on four-under-par, while Becky Morgan of Wales shared ninth on three-under with South Koreans Ko, Jung Hee Won and Cho Jeong Min. China's Man Jin was the only amateur to make the cut and ended in equal 19th place.

This was the first edition of the World Ladies Championship to be sanctioned by the Korean LPGA Tour as well as the Ladies European Tour and China LPGA and resulted in nine KLPGA players in the top 12 places in total.

Other notable performances came from the Australians Stacey Keating and Sarah Kemp, Noora Tamminen of Finland and Céline Herbin of France, who were part of a large group sharing 19th.

The World Ladies Championship continues its long-standing partnership with the world's leading renowned global services brand, American Express.

Ends

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Editorial program service of General News Agency:

UPA United Press Agency LTD
483 Green Lanes
UK, London N13NV 4BS
contact (at) unitedpressagency.com
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