Totland captures first AJGA victory

By Stephen Edelson
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First came the individual state title at the NJSIAA Girls Tournament of Champions. And on Tuesday, Tinton Falls' Taylor Totland captured her first American Junior Golf Association event, winning the Lessing's AJGA Classic on her home course at Trump National in Colts Neck.

And like her one-shot victory there two months ago in earning a state championship, there was nothing easy about this one.

Totland, a two-time Shore Conference champi-on for Red Bank Catholic, where she'll be a senior, defeated Marissa DeCola from Butler, Pa. on the fifth playoff hole.

"To win my first AJGA event, and to do it on my home course, is special," said Totland.

Totland actually entered the final round with the lead, and was six shots clear of DeCola, who posted a final round 73 to pull even and force the playoff.

In the boys division, it was Fair Haven's John Edler posting a 4-under-par 68 in windy conditions in the final round to make a run at the title. But Edler ended up in a tie for second, two shots behind James Park from Deerfield, Mass., whose final-round 72 gave him a 54-hole total of 6-over-par 222.

Brielle's Ethan Wall, who was the first round leader and tied for the top spot after two rounds, finished alone in third at 226.

N.J. Junior/Boys

The semifinals are set at the NJSGA Junior/Boys Championship at Rumson Country Club.

In the junior (16-18) division, top-seeded Chris Zhang from Royce Brook was eliminated in the quarterfinals by Ridgewood's Ryan Rose, who now faces Tobias Ryan from Rumson in one semifinal. The other features Keith Schuman of Alpine against Thomas Le-Morte from White Beeches.

In the boys (15-under) division, Luke Wolkin of Stanton Ridge, the final player into the match play field, won his two matches on Tuesday and now squares off with Robert Newhouse from Bayonne Golf Club. In the other semifinal, Paolo Matti from Plainfield West goes against Justin Murray from Ramblewood.

The finals are set for this afternoon.