

**LOCAL WOMEN HAVE CHANCE TO WIN  
NATIONAL GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP  
AT DESERT FOREST**

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Carefree, Ariz. (July 25, 2007) --Competing on their home course, Desert Forest Golf Club members **Tui Selvaratnam** of Tempe and **Kerry Postillion** of Scottsdale are gearing up to win their first U.S. Women's Mid Amateur Championship.

Fellow members **Robin Donnelley** of Carefree, the 1989 champion, and **Lynn Simmons** of North Phoenix, a veteran USGA competitor, could also make headlines if they qualify.

If experience means anything, then perhaps the USGA will crown a champion from the Grand Canyon state in early October. The 2007 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur is being held at Desert Forest from September 29 through October 3.

Selvaratnam, the runner-up at the 2006 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur at Old Waverly Golf Club, would seem to be a favorite, but she dismissed that notion.

"It's match play. Anyone can get hot and anything can happen," she said. "Because of that I don't have an advantage at all. On any given day in match play you never know what to expect."

Postillion, a mother of three boys and a girl, is also a veteran match-play golfer. She splits time between Scottsdale and Burr Ridge, Ill., and was stroke-play medalist and runner-up at the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur in 1996 and 2005.

She conceded that Desert Forest members might have an advantage, just don't count on it. "The greens can be tricky so it helps to be familiar with them," Postillion admitted, "especially if they are rolling fast. But if your game is on anybody can win."

Donnelley, who is attempting to qualify this year in August, won the 1989 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur.

Back then she was Robin Weiss, a 36-year-old real estate sales executive from Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., who needed 22 holes to beat Page Marsh Lea at The Hills of Lakeway G.C., at Lakeway, Texas.

The national championship catapulted Donnelley to an international stage. One of her biggest thrills was competing for the U.S. on several Curtis Cup teams (1990, 1992, 2000) and helping her country beat Great Britain and Ireland twice. "It was pretty special to be among the top eight golfers from the U.S. every two years," Donnelley said.

Donnelley was also the runner-up at the 1998 Women's Mid-Amateur.

Postillion or Selvaratnam, a real estate investment manager and an assistant golf coach at Xavier College Prep High School, might have the best chance to match Donnelley's historic accomplishment.

Selvaratnam, 31, boasts a handicap index of plus 2.4.

She learned the game from her mother in Sri Lanka, following her around the course as a five-year-old child. Within seven years Selvaratnam had won her first Sri Lanka Women's Amateur. At 18 she left the country to attend Arizona State University where she played for Linda Vollstedt and helped the Sun Devils win three NCAA titles.

Her resume includes 23 amateur championships in 11 different countries, including five in Arizona. But Selvaratnam, who has also competed in 15 USGA national championships (through July 1, 2007) is also playing very well. The last six years she's been the Arizona Women's Golf Association Player of the Year.

Selvaratnam is also capable of setting USGA records. At the 2004 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur at Holston Hills C.C., she beat two opponents 9 and 8 (which tied Ellen Port for largest margin of victory) and 8 and 7.

Postillion grew up in the state of Washington and started playing golf at 12. After college at the University of Washington she turned pro, competing for money part time on the Future's Tour.

Twice Postillion has advanced to the final match at the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur (losing in 1996 to Ellen Port and in 2005 to Mary Ann Lapointe).

Ironically, Postillion's biggest amateur win was at Pinehurst Resort when she beat Donnelley in the final match of the 1997 North & South Women's Amateur Golf Championship.

Postillion has won the Illinois Women's Amateur four times and the Illinois Women's Open three times; in Arizona she's won two AWGA State Stroke-Play Championships.

The wild card could be Lynn Simmons (if she qualifies). Simmons, also a reinstated amateur, has played in more than 10 USGA championships.

Selvaratnam has teamed with Simmons in several USGA State Team Championships and also won AWGA team titles with her. She said Simmons hits it straight and is a very good putter, skills that are needed at Desert Forest. "If you can putt well like Lynn, read the greens and remember the breaks you'll do well," Selvaratnam said.

