

## **Local favorites head U.S. Women's Mid-Am**

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CAREFREE - National golf championships in Arizona are a rare treat.

In fact, this year's U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship at Desert Forest Golf Club in Carefree is only the 14th national golf championship to be held in Arizona by the USGA.

Desert Forest, the only Arizona club ranked in *Golf Magazine's* 2007 list of top 100 U.S. courses, also hosted the 1990 USGA Senior Amateur.

The 156-player field includes arguably the world's best female amateur golfers over age 25.

Contestants will play two rounds of stroke play, and the low 64 scorers advance to match play.

Seventeen committees and more than 200 volunteers have helped prepare the club to host the event, said Gretchen Crosby, who is co-general chairman of the event with Leslie Turner.

"It's so exciting that we're having the championship here," Crosby said Wednesday. "It will be a wonderful, challenging test for the players."

Finding a local golfer to support won't be difficult.

Desert Forest member Tui Selvaratnam, a 31-year-old Tempe resident and former Arizona State standout, will participate.

Selvaratnam advanced to the final match in the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur last year at Old Waverly Golf Club in West Point, Miss.

She lost to 29-year-old Meghan Bolger, then the women's golf coach at Mississippi.

"I've played well this summer, and I'm really comfortable with my game," said Bolger, who qualified for this year's U.S. Women's Open. "You just have to trust yourself."

Crosby hopes the host club will have one of its own win the Mildred Gardiner Prunaret Trophy on Oct. 4.

Selvaratnam, Kerry Postillion and Lynn Simmons are Desert Forest members who might

have the best chance to win.

Postillion, 44, is a two-time runner up in the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur (1996 and 2005), and Simmons has played in more than 10 USGA championships.

Another local golfer with plenty of talent is Missy-Farr Kaye of Scottsdale, the assistant women's coach at ASU and a veteran USGA competitor.

Other prominent names in the field include Carol Semple Thompson, 58, of Sewickley, Pa., a two-time winner (1990 and 1997) and three-time medalist who has advanced to match play in all 20 championships. Thompson has won seven USGA championships and played in more than 100 individual USGA competitions.

Toni Wiesner of Fort Worth, Texas, and Martha Lang, the 1988 champion, of Mandeville, La., also have competed in all 20 Women's Mid-Amateurs.

Ellen Port of St. Louis has won three times (1995, 1996, and 2000).

Other Arizona players include Kristi Joiner-Simpson and Lisa Desimone of Phoenix and Darquise Leduc and Kelly Loeb of Tucson.

Selvaratnam said picking a favorite is nearly impossible.

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

## **If you go**

**What:** U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship.

**When:** Sept. 29-Oct. 4.

**Where:** Desert Forest Golf Club, Carefree.

**Admission:** Free. Parking also is free.