

3 Michigan Kids Heading to Augusta National

Drive, Chip and Putt is their ticket to the Hallowed Grounds

By Tom Lang

Lyla Hampton assumed she would be sitting at home, like hundreds of thousands of golf fans, watching the Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals from her couch come April 2.

But an unexpected stroke of luck, and her excellent skill set, will transport her from her Grosse Pointe Park home to the hallowed grounds of Augusta National Golf Club.

Back in the fall, Hampton was sitting at home when a call came that a competitor had withdrawn from the Regional Final, set to take place about a week later at Scioto Country Club in Ohio, and as the first alternate she could play. She took that great opportunity, and, as they say ‘ran with it’ to win the Regional and earn her trip to Georgia next month.

“It’s just crazy to think that if that person didn’t cancel, I would have never gotten to (go to) Augusta,” Hampton told me. “I was shocked when they dropped out.

“I’m excited because I know Augusta is a very nice high-quality course, and I get to watch the practice round for The Masters right after.



Lyla Hampton

That is exciting, watching all the pros. Just the idea of being there is so cool, because not that many people get to go.”

No Lyla, they don’t. At age 14 and a freshman on the golf team at Grosse Pointe South, she has a little better appreciation for her fate than some. Hampton said she made two putts and had a chip in at the Scioto Regional to pull out the victory and qualify nationally for the girls 14-15 division.

She knows the stage is huge and will do her best to keep her cool.

“I’m pretty good with staying focused under the pressures of playing tournament golf, but I can get nervous over things that you know are

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