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## Stevens Enters National Junior Golf Tournament Qualifier

JUNE 12TH 2015 BY STAFF WRITER

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### **County Wide Insurance Agency Sponsors Ethan in Missouri Junior Golf Tournament**

As a 2015 Trusted Choice Big "I" National Champion qualifier, Ethan Stevens will be representing our community in a large way at Dalhousie Country Club on June 29th and 30th. Ethan is sponsored by the County Wide Insurance Agency team, your local Trusted Choice Agency.

The Trusted Choice® Big "I" National Championship is the nation's largest junior stroke-play golf tournament and one of the premier junior golf events, organized by the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America (The Big "I"), attracts elite junior golfers from throughout the United States.

Informally known as The Big "I", this event began in 1969 as a community service project devised by Independent Insurance Agents. Each year, 200 agents help organize and administer the qualifying tournaments that lead to the national finals. Independent agents donate valuable time, and in many cases, personal resources to conduct successful local events.

The goal of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America is to provide the youth of America an affordable and challenging National Championship to assist their pursuits of earning academic and athletic opportunities for continued development. Each summer more than 2,000 boys and girls nationally vie to earn a place in the finals—a 72-hole, stroke-play tournament. More than 200 state and local qualifying events every year result in a field of 159 boys and girls for the National Championship.

The Championship has proven to be a critical test for many of today's golf professionals, with past participants including -

Boys: Jonathan Byrd, David Duval, Charles Howell III, David Gossett, Justin Leonard, Hunter Mahan, Will McKenzie, Phil Mickelson, Kevin Quigley, Web Simpson, and Tiger Woods.

Girls: Kellee Booth, Candie Kung, Cristie Kerr, and Grace Park

"County Wide is very excited about sponsoring Ethan for this year's qualifying round of this National Tournament," noted Jason Comfort. "The Missouri Trusted Choice Big "I" Championship is one of the premier junior events in the State of MO and offers an excellent opportunity to showcase a young player's talent in front of college coaches".

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Ethan comes from a long family heritage of athletes. He is a multi-sport athlete that certainly is a contender within every sport he participates, including visits to the State level in both high school wrestling and golf.

Comfort added, "Ethan Stevens is a great young man! He has a heart of a true Bearcat! Ethan has shown his competitive fire and resilience to adversity throughout his career underneath the Friday night lights, on the wrestling mats (All-State medalist), and on the golf course as he finished first in 2015 regional golf tournament earning him a trip to the State championship. Ethan is an extremely talented young man, but doesn't let his talent stop him from busting his tail, working to improve"

"This tournament provides an excellent opportunity for junior golfers in SEMO area to get some outstanding exposure, close to home," noted Comfort.

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The Trusted Choice Big "I" National Championship is the 3rd oldest junior golf event in the United States. Today's best players at the LPGA and PGA TOUR level have all made their way through the Big "I". Your community is represented by County Wide Insurance Agency as a Trusted Choice insurance agency offering a broad selection of Car Insurance, Homeowners and Renters Insurance, Life, Medical and Health Insurance, and Business Insurance policies. County Wide is an ambassador to their community by promoting, encouraging and sponsoring Ethan in his endeavors to advance his golf career.

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The 2015 Trusted Choice Big "I" National Championship is sponsored by Nationwide. Nationwide is a Fortune 100 company that offers a full range of insurance and financial services across the country, including car, motorcycle, boat, homeowners, pet, farm, life and commercial insurance through your local County Wide Insurance office. Most importantly, Nationwide reports to you. Nationwide is made of members for member. And, they put their members first, because we don't have shareholders. That's how Nationwide started, how they operate today and what drives their "On Your Side" experience.

The Missouri qualifier tournament at Dalhousie Golf Club is sponsored by the

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Missouri Association of Insurance Agents, as well as local member agents such as County Wide Insurance Agency.

"We are very excited that Dalhousie Golf Club is hosting our event this year as it is one of the premier golf clubs in Missouri and in the country, said tournament organizer, Darrin Banner with Capstone Insurers in Bolivar Missouri.

"The staff at Dalhousie is fantastic and so great to work with and they are also huge supporters of junior golf. We always have a competitive field, the junior players seem to get better every year and we're looking forward to another exciting tournament," added Banner.

This year, the winners of the Missouri tournament will travel to Prairie Dunes Country Club in Hutchison, KS on August 3rd through the 6th. The ShowMe Times and its readers want to wish Ethan the best of luck in this tournament, as he represents our community in this prestigious golf tournament.

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