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American Junior Golf Association

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Contact: John Egnot, AJGA
(770) 868-4200, ext. 787

ARENA, RYDER NAMED HP SCHOLASTIC JUNIOR ALL-AMERICANS

Philadelphia-area natives honored by the AJGA, HP for achievements on the golf course, in the classroom

BRASELTON, Ga. — Philadelphia-area natives Victoria Arena of Lansdale, Pa., and Samuel Ryder of Rosemont, Pa., were named HP Scholastic Junior All-Americans by the American Junior Golf Association and HP Tuesday. The 2006 team, sponsored for the 12th consecutive year by HP, consists of 12 young men and 12 young women who demonstrate the ability to excel both on the golf course and in the classroom.

To be eligible for the HP Scholastic Junior All-America Team, boys must have placed in the top 10 of an AJGA event, while girls needed a top-five finish. The selections were then based on grade-point average, class rank, SAT/ACT scores, leadership skills, community service and writing ability. Candidates were required to submit an essay no longer than 400 words that creatively focused on the game of golf.

These outstanding individuals will be honored during the Rolex Junior All-America Awards Banquet Nov. 19 at The Cloister in Sea Island, Ga. By being named to this team, Arena and Ryder are also eligible to participate in the Polo Golf Junior Classic – one of the most prestigious events in junior golf – taking place Nov. 18-24 at Sea Island Golf Club in Sea Island, Ga.

Arena attends Mount Saint Joseph Academy in Flourtown, Pa., and holds a 4.057 grade point average. The senior is a candidate for the Diocesan Scholars Program for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and has dedicated numerous hours volunteering with local animal organizations including the Community Service Corps Animals Division and the Montgomery County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. On the golf course, Arena finished tied for fourth at the AJGA Junior at Richmond in Richmond, Va.

Ryder, who attends Radnor High School, excels academically by carrying a 4.1561 GPA and 1900 SAT score. The 2007-graduate won the inaugural Fidelity Investments Junior at Trump National in Bedminster, N.J., in July. He is the captain of the varsity golf team and the assistant captain of the varsity hockey team at his high school while also volunteering with the National Honor Society and the USGA • AJGA Youth Leadership Club.

“HP is delighted once again to recognize academic excellence with the naming of the 2006 HP Scholastic Junior All-America Team,” said John Dayan, vice president of marketing, Personal Systems Group Americas, Hewlett Packard. “The AJGA works hard to prepare young adults for life after high school by instilling honor, perseverance and good sportsmanship. HP is proud to be associated with the AJGA and this great group of young adults.”

The American Junior Golf Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the overall growth and development of young men and women who aspire to earn college golf scholarships through competitive junior golf. The AJGA, the largest Association of its kind, has an annual junior membership (boys and girls ages 12-18) of more than 5,000 junior golfers from 49 states and 30 foreign countries.

Titleist, the AJGA's National Sponsor, has been the catalyst and driving force behind the Association's success since 1989. Rolex Watch USA, which is in its third decade of AJGA support, became the inaugural AJGA Premier Partner in 2004.

AJGA alumni have risen to the top of amateur, collegiate and professional golf. More than 160 former AJGA juniors currently play on the PGA and LPGA Tours and have compiled more than 300 wins. AJGA alumni include Phil Mickelson, Tiger Woods, Jim Furyk, Stewart Cink, Davis Love III, Cristie Kerr, Pat Hurst, Paula Creamer, Brittany Lincicome and Morgan Pressel.

For more information, please contact John Egnot in the AJGA Communications Department at (770) 868-4200, ext. 787 or visit the AJGA's Web site at ajga.org.

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