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American Junior Golf Association

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DUPONT, THEAD NAMED HP SCHOLASTIC JUNIOR ALL-AMERICANS

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

BRASELTON, Ga. – San Diego-area natives Josh Dupont and Sarah Thead both of Poway, Calif., 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, Dupont and Thead 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.

A senior at Cathedral Catholic High School, Dupont ranks 15th out of 356 students. This is his second consecutive year being named to the HP Scholastic Junior All-America Team. Dupont is active in his high school as senior class president. In AJGA competition, Dupont has four top-10 finishes with his highest finish in 2006 coming at the Heather Farr Classic in Mesa, Ariz., where he finished tied for ninth.

Thead, who ranks 13th out of 728 students, is a senior at Poway High School. She is a member of the National Charity League where she has volunteered her time with many different organizations including Habitat for Humanity, the San Diego Humane Society and the Special Olympics. In 2006, Thead's top finish in AJGA competition came at the Nationwide Insurance Junior presented by the Memorial Tournament in Delaware, Ohio, where she finished tied for second. Thead was named a 2005 HP Scholastic Junior All-American and an honorable mention Rolex Junior All-American.

"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.

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