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American Junior Golf Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Oct. 3, 2007

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DALLAS-AREA NATIVES NAMED HP SCHOLASTIC JUNIOR ALL-AMERICAN

Barton and Smith honored by AJGA, HP for achievements on the golf course, in the classroom

BRASELTON, Ga. — Two Dallas-area natives were named HP Scholastic Junior All-Americans by the American Junior Golf Association and HP Wednesday. Lila Barton of Dallas and Heather Smith of Fort Worth, Texas, both received the prestigious honor. The 2007 team, sponsored for the 13th 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 on the topic, "A Day I'll Never Forget..."

These outstanding individuals will be honored at the Rolex Junior All-America Awards Banquet Nov. 18 at The Grande Ballroom at Ginn Reunion Resort in Reunion, Fla. By being named to this team, each player is also eligible to participate in the Polo Golf Junior Classic, one of the most prestigious events in junior golf, taking place Nov. 17-23 at Ginn Reunion Resort.

A 2008 graduate, Barton, 17, attends Highland Park High School where she holds a 3.99 GPA and is a two-year National Honor Society member. Barton has been a member of the Highland Park High School golf team for four years, three of which she was team captain. She was an honorable mention Rolex Junior All-American from 2004-2006. In her five years as an AJGA member, Barton has recorded 12 top-10 finishes. Barton plans to continue her golf career at Stanford University beginning in the fall of 2008, according to Golfweek.com.

Smith, 17, a 2008 graduate, attends Southwest Christian High School where she maintains a 4.75 GPA and is ranked first in a class of 75. She is a two-year member of the National Honor Society and scored a 26 on the ACT and an 1830 on the SAT. Smith has completed countless hours of service to her community. She is an avid runner and played basketball for three years. In 2007, Smith has four top-10 finishes in AJGA competition, including third-place finish at the 2007 Dodge/Bob Estes Abilene Junior.

"HP is delighted once again to recognize academic excellence with the naming of the 2007 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 largest Association of its kind, the AJGA has an annual junior membership (boys and girls ages 12-18) of more than 5,000 junior golfers from 49 states and more than 25 foreign countries.

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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. In 2007, after 12 years of support, Polo Ralph Lauren became the AJGA's second Premier Partner.

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 Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Jim Furyk, Stewart Cink, Davis Love III, Cristie Kerr, Pat Hurst, Paula Creamer, Morgan Pressel and Julieta Granada.

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