

Meet Our 2026 Amateur Champion

Alex Zhang is one of our youngest champions ever, but he's used to that.

Alex Zhang finished T-45th in the Canadian Amateur as a 12-year-old, and won the Canadian Junior at 14, so is it a surprise that he has now won our Amateur at 17, in a play-off no less?

Not to him. "I had just won a playoff to qualify for the U.S. Junior Amateur, so I wasn't nervous," he told us. And sure enough, his drive on Shaughnessy Golf and Country Club's 453-yard 10th hole found the fairway, while that of our reigning champion, Dustin Franko, was marooned behind a tree.

The two were tied at 5 under par after 36 holes, played at Kings Links by the Sea and Shaughnessy. Three routine shots later, Zhang had his par and the championship.

There have been many other highlights in Zhang's short career, but he's aware that the Zone 4 Amateur is a significant achievement, with recent winners including Adam Svensson, A.J. Ewart, Stuart McDonald and others now shining as prominent touring pros.

However, turning pro is not on his radar, at least not yet. Instead the Magee Secondary student and Marine Drive Golf Club member will head to Harvard this fall, and he'll do that without benefit of a golf scholarship, as Ivy league colleges don't offer them.

Before then he'll have a busy golf summer, given his qualification for the U.S. Junior and eligibility for both Junior and Amateur events, at least until mid-August, when he turns 18. At the B.C. Amateur, to be held at Riverway Golf Course in Burnaby, he'll be joined on our team by Franko and Forrest Van Alstine, who finished one stroke behind. We wish them the best.

