



BY
GODFREY ROBERT

SEAN EYES US COLLEGE STINT

TALENTED ACS (I) STUDENT HOPES TO DO WELL AT ASIA-PACIFIC EVENT

Whenever he travels for golf assignments, books form part of the luggage amidst his golf clubs and equipment.

And while his golf events and practice sessions take up much of his time, he manages to sneak in a few hours in between for his studies.

I found this out recently in Danang, Vietnam, when Sean Lee competed in the Faldo Series Asia Grand Finals at Laguna Lang Co last month.

The talented 15-year-old is a student of Anglo-Chinese School (Independent), and realises that studies are as important as his golf assignments.

And with the overwhelming support of his school, Sean managed to raise his game to new levels over the last three years.

It is that same support he is looking forward to as his school allowed him to skip examinations on the three playing days he is slated to compete in the 2019 Asia-Pacific Junior Amateur event

at Laguna Masters next month.

Sean is among 11 players selected for the world ranking event that gives leading juniors the opportunity to be scouted by American college coaches.

The other players are Daryl Low, Ng Wei Jun, Brandon Han, Aidil Nor Amani, Yoko Tai, Inez Ng, Shayne Lim, Rachel Sim, Guo Jun Xi and Jaymie Ng.

Said Sean: "I am grateful to my school, and my golf-loving parents, Andrew and Pelicia, for providing me yeoman support all these years. So far I have managed to balance my studies with my golf because of time management."

The winner of several local and

regional junior events, among them the World Junior International Under-14 title, Sean is very committed to his golf and practises four or five times a week at Keppel, with weekend playing rounds at Laguna National.

The recent winner of the inter-schools' crown is especially serious about the May 7 to 10 Asia-Pacific event as he hopes to continue his studies at college in the US as a stepping stone to his dream of turning pro and playing on the US PGA Tour.

Golfers from Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Indonesia, India, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, China, Taiwan and Myanmar and Singapore will compete in the three-day, stroke-play tournament.

The top six boys and top six girls will represent Asia-Pacific in the Ryder Cup-format tournament against the Southern Californian Golf Association at the Riviera Country Club, Los Angeles in August.

The respective winners (boys and girls) will also compete in the Southern California Junior Amateur and the Pacific Coast Amateur events.



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— SEAN LEE (RIGHT)

LEOW ENJOYS SGA'S PARTNERSHIP WITH US COLLEGES

The Singapore Golf Association's engagement with overseas-based national players is best explained in the way it maintains its links with Arizona State University student James Leow.



Leow (right), 22, is in his freshman year at the American university and he is maintaining a good balance between golf and studies.

Leow, the highest world ranked amateur in the national squad at 171, said: "It wasn't easy at the start of freshman year but I was introduced to a Business Major (basic) syllabus calendar on Excel that made it so much better to manage my time and practices.

"I basically input all assignments and their due date for the whole semester in there and planned my own practices and workouts around that.

"Our college's team's practice, rounds and workouts are organised by coaches on a school athletic app that we use and it helps a lot to have that."

Leow will be representing Singapore in the 2019 Asia-Pacific Diamond Cup – an event the Japan Golf Tour Organisation co-sanctions with the Asian Tour – at Sobu Country Club in Japan from May 9 to 12.

Last summer, Leow won numerous Malaysian state amateur opens, Warren Amateur Open and the Singapore National Amateur Championship.

The talented youngster, who was ranked within the top 50 in the world at that point in time, currently also works via email and apps with national coach Matt Ballard, and is expected to play a key role in Singapore's defence of the SEA Games team gold medal this year.

About college golf, Leow said: "There are so many great things about it, like playing PGA Tour venue golf courses, getting exposure to different course conditions, and meeting highly-ranked athletes who compete in the same collegiate events as you.

"Most importantly, I have really competitive and awesome teammates who constantly stir the drive in me to get better every day, and that is an awesome feeling.

"I feel like I have discovered more about myself and improved my game due to the exposure I had and I am appreciative of every bit of it."

Leow's long-term plan is to turn pro and get on the US PGA Tour, but his immediate aim is to raise his standard of play and level of competency to help fly the Singapore flag.

— Godfrey Robert

photos by Singapore Golf Association