

# SPORTS

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## De Guzman snares Thai Ladies crown

BANGKOK—REGAN de Guzman completed a championship sweep for the Philippines, firing a one-under-par 71 yesterday to capture the individual crown in the 17th Thailand Ladies Amateur Open Golf Championship at the President Country Club here.



**DE GUZMAN**

The long-hitting De Guzman, who turned 15 only last month, parred No. 18 in regulation from five feet to secure a one-stroke victory over Malaysian Ainil Abubakar.

The stirring triumph came after Dottie Ardina and Mia Piccio won the team event for the Philippines on Thursday.

De Guzman, a member of the Nike developmental team handled by Abe Rosal, finished the 54-hole tournament with a four-under-par 212, counting her earlier rounds of 69 and 72.

Abubakar capped a 69 with a birdie to settle for second place with 213 while Ikeda turned

in a tournament-best 67 for third with 214.

Ardina ballooned to a 76 and finished at 216, four shots behind De Guzman.

De Guzman became the second Filipino to win the event after LPGA campaigner Jennifer Rosales won it in 1994.

She also returned a favor to the Thais following Yupaporn Kawinpakorn's victory in the Philippine Ladies Open last January.

"I think the Thais are in shock," De Guzman's mother, Tet, told the INQUIRER. "The (RP) girls just showed the depth of our talent pool."

The Philippines' big showing here came on the heels of an impressive stint in the Queen Sirikit Cup, where Ardina, De Guzman and Crystal Superal led the country to its best-ever second-place finish.

De Guzman, Ardina, Abubakar and the late-charging Ikeda were actually tied for the lead at two-under after 12 holes. But Ardina bowed out first with bogeys on Nos. 13 and 14 while Ikeda flubbed makeable birdie putts to reel back as De Guzman and Abubakar birdied No. 14 to stay on top.

Then after the Malaysian bogeyed the 16th, De Guzman took a two-shot lead with a birdie on the 17th. *With a report from Jong Arcano*