

NSW Junior Championship—Corey Lamb shows his class again

The final margin was four shots, but Corey Lamb (Concord and Branxton) was never in trouble throughout the final round of the 2019 NSW Junior Championship. This follows his win last week in the Queensland Junior Championships where he won by 5 strokes.

Starting with a six shot lead it was going to take something special from the chasing pack to catch overnight leader Lamb. Whilst the 17 year old didn't quite have his A game in the difficult conditions on Friday like he had throughout the first three rounds, he had already done more than enough to pick up his first major JNJG title in his final JNJG event. A birdie on the first was followed up by a double bogey on the second, and when the Branxton junior dropped two more shots on the fourth and fifth he offered up just a sniff to those chasing.

But like he had done all week he responded when he needed, with a birdie on the difficult sixth steadying the ship right on cue. With 40km/h winds blowing across the course all afternoon, par was a good score and Lamb made plenty of them on the back nine to secure the title.

To win this championship Corey had rounds of 67, 67, 69, 76—these 4 rounds included 19 birdies—a phenomenal effort from this very promising local Branxton junior.

Corey joins an illustrious group of golfers on the NSW Junior Championship honour roll including more than a few famous Newcastle golfers. Looking over the names, he was in awe of names he saw.

“Yeah, it feels good to be amongst them,” he quipped.

Corey was also thrilled to know he had ensured his place in the field for the AVJennings NSW Open in November. His last taste of the NSW Open was acting as caddy for his uncle, 15 times Branxton Club Champion, Mark Hale, who won his was in via regional qualifying.

“I caddied for him last time, so yeah, it’s going to be fun.”

When asked about the chances of his uncle reaping the caddying favour, Corey grinned. “Yes, definitely. He’s taking a week off to caddy for me in the Queensland Open, so I think he should make it two weeks.”

The wins earned the right-hander a start at the Queensland Open and NSW Open, which are both in November.

"I'm probably in as good a form as I ever have been," Lamb said. "I have been practising really hard so it's good to see the results coming."

Corey hopes to graduate into the senior NSW team next year, plans to follow in the footsteps of Charlestown 21-year-old Blake Windred and play in some of the major world amateur events.

"Hopefully I can play overseas next year and do well in some of the bigger amateur series, similar to what Blake has done," he said.

