

EAGLE EYE: Seguin's Rangel chosen for 2012 Ryder Cup Junior Academy

by Tucker Stephenson



Courtesy photo

Prestigious honor

Seguin senior golfer Gabby Rangel was recently selected to take part in the 2012 Ryder Cup Junior Academy in Florida.

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SEGUIN — When current Seguin High School senior Gabby Rangel took up the game of golf as a seventh-grader, it began as a way to spend time with her father.

"My dad was one of the biggest parts because he's been a (Seguin) Pan-American (Golf Association) member for probably over 10 years now and he plays every Sunday," Rangel said. "I just wanted to be with him and go play."

And how did Rangel end up rewarding her dear old dad for introducing her to the sport?

"I beat him now," Rangel said matter-of-factly.

Her father can't be mad about it, though — especially given the major honor Rangel recently earned.

A junior member of the Seguin PAGA herself, Rangel was accepted to take part in the 2012 Ryder Cup Junior Academy in St. Lucie, Fla. on July 1-8. The event is open to just 96 junior players — 48 boys and 48 girls — from across the country.

In addition to learning from top pros and competing against some of the brightest young players, the academy will offer Rangel and her peers a rare opportunity to get an in-depth look at all aspects of the game.

"We're going to stay at the PGA Village and get to explore and get a more detailed look of the running of a golf course and more of a feel of all of that," Rangel said. "We're going to go to a golf museum as well, which is good because I love all the history."

Making the cut for the prestigious honor was no easy undertaking — unless, of course, an applicant has the same impressive resume as Rangel.

The senior not only met the on-course requirements, but also had enough academic merits and community activities to become an easy choice for sponsorship through the Seguin PAGA.

"I was the highest candidate to go because of all my community service and all of my involvement with school," Rangel said. "And my golf skills too."

The senior has undoubtedly had a remarkable run as a Lady Matador, being named the squad's MVP following both her sophomore and junior seasons. She has also held the title of team captain for the last three years in a row.

And that's just a small sampling of her successes at Seguin.

When asked about her favorite memories regarding her prep career, though, Rangel doesn't hesitate to begin with the experiences she's shared with her Lady Matador teammates.

"It has been one of the most amazing experiences ever," she said. "I just love my golf team. We do everything together. We're so close, we're like family."

The ride isn't over yet, either, as the Seguin girls golf team — which also features Claire Reininger, Kristen Laird and Addie Morales — is currently preparing for the District 25-5A Tournament on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Rangel said that her team wants to continue to make strides across the board.

"We've improved a lot since the start of the season and I want to improve more so we can get down to some lower scores," Rangel said.

Beyond high school, the senior said that she does have college golf in her sights, but mentioned that she hasn't chosen a school just yet.

For now, Rangel is approaching things like a true golfer — being patient and focusing on one shot at a time.

The senior even admitted that her selection to the Ryder Cup Junior Academy hasn't really sunk in.

"It hasn't hit me yet," she said. "But I'm pretty sure that as it gets closer, I'm going to get pretty excited."

Gabby is the daughter of HerLinda and Armando "Lunch" Rangel.