

Teenage Golfer Already a Star

Michelle Wie is only 16 years old, but already people are saying she may be one of the best female golfers ever.

But Wie doesn't want to play just against women. She has said she wants to be the first woman to play well against men in a professional sport. Usually, professional men and women golfers play in separate tournaments. Wie has been playing in men's tournaments since she was 13. In 2004, she became the youngest female ever to play in an event on the men's PGA (Professional Golfers' Association) Tour. She shot rounds of 72 and 68. She missed the cut to play in the final rounds by one stroke, but her scores were better than the scores of 47 men in the tournament.

This summer, she plans to play in two men's tournaments to try to finish higher in the standings.

Wie already is the highest-paid woman golfer in history. Since she turned professional shortly before her 16th birthday, companies using her name in ads have paid her between \$10 million and \$12 million. And she is just a junior in high school. Most of the money she earns now is being put aside until she is an adult.

Wie began playing golf when she was 4 years old. She played her first full game of golf, which is 18 holes, when she was 7.

MORE FACTS ABOUT MICHELLE WIE

- Besides being a good golfer, Wie is a good student as well. She has an A average at her high school in Hawaii.
- Wie is 6 feet, 1 inch tall. She wears a size 10 men's golf shoe.



NEWS WORD BOX

tournament golf
stroke professional
tour junior adult

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Michelle Wie has said her goal is to play in the Masters Tournament, the top golf tournament for men.

Why do you think she wants to compete against men?

Do you think it's right for women to compete against men in pro sports?