

Fernandez Captures Title

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Tee-off time was 9:30, but Fernandez was at Black Mountain Golf Club two hours early. She could have opted for the extra rest, but the Foothill senior felt her game needed work. Fernandez practiced for 11/2 hours, half of it on putting. Her putting didn't improve, but her irons more than made up for it. Despite needing 32 putts, Fernandez fired a 4 under par 69 for a 142 total and her second individual title in three years at the NIAA/U.S. Bank Class 4A State Girls Golf Championship. Durango senior and defending champion Welch, tied for first after the opening round, shot a 75 and was second at 148. That was two better than teammate Andrews, who posted the second best round of the day and was third at 150. Foothill's Fernandez also worked hard prior to teeing off. Her 33 on the back nine illustrated the effectiveness of her iron shots. Seventeen of those strokes were putts, including her three-putt par on 18. Fernandez, who eagled 13 with a 2-foot putt, hit 16 greens in regulation. "My iron shots were working real well for me," said Fernandez, who will play golf at Tulsa next year. "I still wasn't confident with my shots and my swing. My iron shots got me through."