Akin wins Kentucky State Amateur

Former Blue Raider captures second title in last three years

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Lower Bracket

ELIZABETHTOWN, Ky. - Former Blue Raider Karisa Akin won the 86th Annual Women's Kentucky State Amateur on Friday at the Elizabethtown Country Club. Akin defeated April Emerson by a stroke to capture her second title in the last three years, as she also won the event in 2010. "It feels good to win and take back the title since it has been between us the last four years," Akin said. "On the last nine holes, we had nine birdies between us. Neither of us missed a shot. But on the final hole, I hit it on the green from 190, and she missed the green, then I two putted to win." Akin has competed in the Amateur for the last decade in her home state but had not played her home course since it underwent a million-dollar renovation in 2009. "I guess there was a lot of pressure to win since it was at my home course, and it was good that I could actually live up that expectation," Akin said. The tournament, which began with qualifying on Monday at the par-72, 5,603-yard course, was divided into an upper and lower bracket, with the champion of each squaring off for the title. Akin's qualifying score of 69 was only one stroke off the top qualifier thanks in part to her 34 on the back nine. Akin opened match play with a 4 and 3 win against Ellen Kehoe, who eliminated Akin from the tournament last year in a three-hole playoff during the second round. The Elizabethtown native then knocked off a familiar face in WKU's Kelsey Burrell and won two more rounds to advance to the final.

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