

PRESENTED BY CALLAWAY

Mission Accomplished

Jack Wall bid farewell to the junior ranks with a second straight great season



Jack Wall had several goals in mind entering his final summer of competition in the junior golf ranks. But as the reigning winner of the MGA Junior Player of the Year Award, Presented by Callaway, defending his yearlong title stood out among the rest. And the 18-year-old Brielle, N.J., native did just that, displaying an even greater consistency of high-level play in 2019 than he had in his standout 2018 season.

"It was definitely one of my main goals to win this award again," said Wall. "There are so many great junior golfers in the Met Area, so to win this award for the second time means a lot. To end my junior golf career with this is really special."

Following his standout senior campaign at Christian Brothers Academy, Wall – now in his first year at University of South Carolina – advanced through U.S. Open local qualifying and also reached the Round of 32 in the U.S. Men's Amateur Four-Ball at Bandon Dunes alongside his prep-school teammate Brendan Hansen in May.

Wall closed out June by tying for 15th in the Ike at Canoe Brook Country Club, and began July with a tie for second in the New Jersey Amateur at Neshanic Valley. Next, Wall competed in the U.S. Junior Amateur at Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio, where he fell to eventual runner-up Bo Jin of China in the Round of 32. A top-20 finish in the New Jersey Open followed, and then Wall tied for eighth in the Carter Cup – his fourth consecutive top-10 finish in the



MGA's junior stroke play championship.

To that point in the season, Wall and point leader Nathan Han of Somers, N.Y., had traded the top spot multiple times. However, the Met Amateur at Hudson National in early August proved pivotal, as Wall defeated Han by a 6-and-4 margin in the opening round of match play. Though

Wall lost to eventual champion Chris Gotterup in 19 holes in the following round, he passed Han for good on the points list.

Wall's runner-up finish in New Jersey's William Y. Dear Junior tacked on his final 90 points of the season, leading to a year-end total of 571 points and the successful repeat as the MGA's Junior Player of the Year.

"I think I'm most proud of my finishes at the Met Amateur and U.S. Junior Amateur," said Wall. "I thought I struck the ball fantastic around two very tough golf courses. I'm also proud of the way I fought in those events mentally. I made a lot of bad mistakes in both events, but I fought to the end."

Wall responded particularly well at Inverness, bouncing back from a 5-over 76 with a 2-under 69. The round propelled him into a tie for 23rd and on to match play, allowing him to earn 130 points and secure his highest point total for a single event on the season.

Not surprisingly, Wall's consistency has carried over to the collegiate level. This fall, Wall has already earned a top-10 finish in the J.T. Poston Invitational, where he fired a final round 65 and helped the Gamecocks to a second place finish. Though Wall's junior career is now behind him, his next chapter is already off to a successful start. ■