WOMEN'S COLLEGE GOLF

DSC captures national JUCO title

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With a great run of consistency and a nine-shot lead entering the final round of the National Junior College golf championship, a certain level of comfort might’ve been expected for Daytona State College.

But discomfort came in a hurry during Thursday’s final round at Longbow Golf Club in Mesa, Ariz., where one of DSC’s top four players — Erin Selfridge — was 7 over par through eight holes. That’s the type of stumble that sends up a big red flag for a team nursing a lead.

“We went to her and told her she needed to dig in and grind it out,” DSC coach Laura Brown said. “She did. She was was 1 under par the rest of the way. The back nine, I think, is the harder nine, so she really had to grind it out.”

Selfridge’s rebound was more than enough as the Falcons actually expanded on their 54-hole lead to win the school’s sixth national championship by 11 shots over Redlands Community College of Oklahoma. DSC produced a team score of 303 on Thursday after posting scores of 303, 305 and 300 the first three days.

“That was the key, our scores were so consistent,” said Brown, whose team has won three of the past four national championships. “Those scores ... that’s hard to beat.”

Along with Selfridge’s 78, DSC’s other Thursday scores came from So Young Hwang (72), Megan Garland (76) and Mary Dawson (77). Hwang, a freshman from South Korea, had a four-round total of 6-over 294 and tied for second individually, four shots behind Redland’s Sarah Schober. DSC’s top four players finished in the top 10 individually.

“This group here, they’re really special because they all contributed all year,” Brown said. “My top four was my top four all year — so consistent, really came together as a team and wanted it so bad. This one is really special.”

DSC’s Central Florida rival, Seminole State College of Sanford, finished third, 16 shots back. Two Texas schools — McLennan and Tyler — were fourth and fifth, respectively.

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