

Sarah Lydic went wire-to-wire to capture her first national golf title, adding another impressive achievement to a summer résumé she has been building toward for years.

The junior from Wake Forest University entered the final round with a commanding nine-stroke lead and knew maintaining her focus would be the key to finishing the job. Lydic said she concentrated on staying committed to positive swing thoughts rather than worrying about her tendency to miss shots to the right under pressure. The arrival of her mother during the first round also brought a sense of calm that helped the Demon Deacon remain composed.

Despite her sizable advantage, Lydic was fully aware that leads can disappear quickly at Occano, where gusting winds often make scoring difficult. The conditions were especially challenging on the front nine, with many approach shots into par fours measuring more than 160 yards. She managed a birdie on the 353-yard par-4 fourth

hole and paired it with a couple of bogeys to post a 1-over-par 37 on the inward side of the front nine.

After making the turn, Lydic settled into a rhythm and began to believe the championship was hers to win. Birdies on holes 12, 15, and 16 helped separate her further from the field as the finish line came into view. She also credited her playing partners throughout the week, noting that good pairings always contribute to a positive tournament experience.

Walking up the 18th fairway, Lydic's thoughts turned to her grandparents, who live along her route home. She joked that a celebratory ice cream cone would be in order. Her first phone call, however, was destined for Wake Forest head coach Kim Lewellen, who shared in the excitement of seeing her player reach the winner's circle.

Lydic finished the tournament at 214, securing an eight-stroke victory. Elizabeth Ryu placed second with a 222, while Anna Swan finished third at 225.