

TODAY 21 Jan 2010 © 2009 Mediacorp Press Ltd

## Joey's in the lead

**SINGAPORE** — Joey Poh (picture) loved every minute of her experience at last year's HSBC Women's Champions tournament at the Tanah Merah Country Club.

And which 16-year-old wouldn't, given the chance to play alongside golf pros like world No 1 Lorena Ochoa and eventual champion Shin Jiyai.

Joey, the top local qualifier last year, could be on her way to her second

appearance at this year's event from Feb 25 to 28, topping the 11-strong field on the first day of the HSBC Women's Champions Local Qualifying tournament yesterday with a 5-over 77 at the club's Garden course.

"I didn't have a good start ... I was a bit panicky but then I remembered what my dad had told me, to concentrate on one hole at a time," said Joey, who sank birdies on the ninth and

11th holes.

Ji Jiali is one stroke behind Joey with 78, with Stephanie Loi third on 79. The second round continues today.

Sixty-three of the world's top women golfers, including Shin, Paula Creamer, Michelle Wie and Ochoa, are taking part in this year's US\$1.3 million (\$1.8 million) HSBC Women's Champions tournament. **LOW LIN FHOONG**