

**The Palm Beach Post**  
**May 8, 2004**

## **BREAKING DOWN STEREOTYPES OF IVY**

**CRAIG DOLCH, Palm Beach Post Staff Writer**

PORT ST. LUCIE -- By now, Andia Winslow is used to the double takes.

Winslow is like many of the black golfers in the 18th National Minority Championships at PGA Golf Club who have had to deal with prejudice after taking up the sport. Being told they're not welcome at some events or not allowed at certain courses are some of the hazards they've had to face.

But what makes Winslow unique is being the first black player to compete in this event from an Ivy League school. The Seattle native completed her degree in sociology from Yale University this week when she sent in her final term paper.

"When I tell someone I'm going to Yale, I usually have to say it twice," said Winslow, who opened the tournament Friday with a 92. "Maybe it's because they don't hear me correctly."

Winslow's mother, Lynn, is less forgiving.

"They'll tell her, 'Oh, you're going to Yale? How did you do that?' . . . like a black person can't go to Yale," said Lynn, a former school administrator. "Then they'll find out she plays golf, and it's like, 'Oh, you're getting in because of the sport rather than you're smart enough to attend Yale.' "

Winslow was the first black member of Yale's women's golf team and is believed to be the first black woman to play varsity golf in the Ivy League.

"I felt fortunate that I was that person, but unfortunate that something like that would happen in 2001," Winslow said. "Yale has been admitting women since 1959. Why there are no women of this color at this level, I just don't know."

How much longer Winslow plays golf is something not even she knows. As a teenager, she showed enough promise to be named Minority Junior Golfer of the Year in 1999. She had chances to play golf at several big-name programs, but turned them down because she wanted to concentrate on academics.

She played for three seasons at Yale, skipping her senior season to concentrate on her studies. She said her stroke average was 78, which doesn't have her on the fast track for a career as a professional golfer. But she points out her focus wasn't on birdies and bogeys.

"I chose Yale for academics, and that's something I've never regretted," she said. "I knew I wasn't going to be able to spend a lot of time on athletics when I came here."

Winslow plans on taking the next year to see if the LPGA Tour is a possibility. That's why she asked for a special invitation to play in the Minority Championships, which are usually open only to historically black institutions.

"Physically, she has the talent to dominate a golf course," said her coach, David Elaimy. "It's just a question of whether she wants to try it or not. She would need a couple of years

to work on things and to get some competitive action. She has the talent to go in any direction she wants."

There have been only three black players on the LPGA Tour, the latest LaRee Sugg, who lost her card after the 2001 season.

While access to courses and instruction has become better for minorities with the First Tee programs, Winslow said that's not enough. "There's a lot of support at the junior level, but you can't stop there," she said. "Once you get past the juniors, you're kind of on your own. You need continual structure and support."

Winslow has gotten plenty of support from her parents, who insist they would have no problem if she chose golf as a career even though she'll have that degree from Yale.

"Golf professionals are not dummies," her mother said. "The main thing I tell her is to be happy. A lot of people work 8-to-5, and they're not very happy."

North Miami school leads: Junior Michael Welch of Johnson & Wales University in North Miami shot an eight-under-par 64 to help the Wildcats take the first-day lead in the Division I standings with a team total of nine-under-par 279.

Johnson & Wales is the defending Division II team champion but elected to play in Division I this year. Defending Division I champion Bethune-Cookman College is in second place at five-over 293.

Benedict College of Columbia, S.C., took the lead in the Division II standings behind the play of sophomore Demond Hale, who shot a 75. The Tigers are at 322, three shots ahead of Fayetteville (N.C.) State.

In the women's division, Texas-Pan American, led by sophomore Nicole Boychuk's 75, leads at 316. Sarah Davis of Hampton University shot an 83 to lead the women's independent division, and Ron Thomas of Bethune-Cookman shot a 72 to lead the men's independent division.