

# PUR Women Team ready for 2012 WATC

**Local teams looking forward to World Championships in Turkey**  
by Alberto C. Medina - PRGA Staff Writer



**(Tuesday, September 25th, 2012)** - The best amateur golfers in the world will converge in Antalya, Turkey, this week for the start of the 2012 World Amateur Team Championships (WATC), the largest and most prestigious event held by the International Golf Federation.

A record 72 male and 56 female squads from all around the globe will face off for the chance to call their nation the best in the world. Puerto Rico, which **HOSTED** the event in 2004 and has been posting steadily improved results in the years since, will once again send strong, talented teams to represent the Island and try to bring home the Eisenhower (men) and Espirito Santo (women) trophies.

Up first will be the ladies competition, which starts up on Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup>. Puerto Rico will repeat its 2010 WATC team consisting of Kyle Roig, María Torres and Patricia García. That squad achieved the Island's highest ever finish (20<sup>th</sup>) two years ago in Buenos Aires, and they'll be looking to improve and set a new record this time around.

*"I think we have a really strong team," said García. "We've learned a lot since two years ago and I think we have some more experience and a lot of good golf in us."*

The Puerto Rican ladies are a young but very talented squad. García is a standout at Texas A&M, while Roig plays at perennial powerhouse UCLA. Torres, a high school senior, will join them on the NCAA circuit next year when she begins attending the University of Florida, and this year alone has compiled an impressive list of tournaments and achievements including: top individual honors at the junior and adult Caribbean Amateur Championships, playing in the U.S. Girls' Amateur Championship, a win at the AJGA's TaylorMade-Adidas Golf Junior event and a top-20 finish at the Duke of York Young Champions Trophy in Scotland.

García knows it will take an outstanding effort from all three of them to place well this weekend. *"The level (of competition) is so high right now. I've been mentally preparing for the fact that we're going to be facing the best of the best in Turkey,"* said García, who noted that she's been practicing over four hours daily.

A week after the ladies it will be time for the men to tee it up, and the Puerto Rican team is ready to go. The squad features Erick Morales and Robert Calvesbert, both of whom have previous WATC experience, and one 'rookie' who couldn't be more excited about the opportunity.

"Honestly, I can't even describe how proud I feel," said Jerónimo Esteve, the third member of the Puerto Rican team. "I never thought that this would happen; it's above and beyond anything I could have dreamed of and, to be able to compete against the best players in the world... I can't even describe it."

Esteve, who actually played professionally after college nearly a decade ago, has recently found a successful second golf career as an amateur. Earlier this year, he joined Morales and Calvesbert on the Hoerman Cup team that placed third at the Caribbean Amateur Golf Championships, and delivered one of the top performances by a Puerto Rican player.

"That gave me a lot of confidence," said Esteve about his play in St. Kitts. Like García, Esteve also said that he has been preparing almost non-stop since he was named to the team, and he believes that the Puerto Rican men will put in a strong performance in Turkey.

"Obviously, Robi is a great player, and so is Erick. We have a great camaraderie between us, we get along well, and both of them are incredibly talented," said Esteve of Calvesbert and Morales, who have, for years now, been mainstays on various Puerto Rican national teams. The 2012 World Amateur Team Championships will use a 72-hole stroke play format, with the best two individual scores from each team counting toward that country's aggregate score for the day. Follow all the action in Turkey through our updates at [www.prga.org](http://www.prga.org).

# Women's WATC Round 1 - News Release

**Puerto Rico on 34th after first round at WATC**  
by Alberto C. Medina - PRGA Staff Writer



*(September 27, 2012)* - The Puerto Rican National team had a solid start but left room for improvement after the first round of the 2012 Women's World Amateur Team Championship being held in Antalya, Turkey.

María Torres shot +2, while Kyle Roig and Patricia García shot +7, each, for an aggregate score of +9. That puts Puerto Rico in 34th place out of the 53 nations

competing for the Espirito Santo Trophy, above countries like Brasil, **HOST** nation Turkey, and South Africa; and 4th out of the eight Latin American nations represented at the event.

Sweden a two-time WATC champion, is the current leader at -3 due to a fantastic performance from Daniela Holmqvist, who posted that same score. In second place at -2, Latvia has been the early surprise of the tournament, while Spain, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, and the Czech Republic share third place at -1.

Torres was the standout player for Puerto Rico in the first round, and she is currently 41st on the individual leaderboard. She was the only golfer on the team to score more than one birdie and avoid any double-bogeys on the Old Course at Gloria Golf Club.

Tomorrow, action for the Puerto Rican ladies will shift to the New Course. Torres, Roig and García will be first off the tee starting at 7:30 a.m. (12:30 a.m. local time), paired with Wales and Malaysia, who are currently in 22nd and 35th place, respectively.

## Women's WATC Round 2 - News Release

**Puerto Rico climbs up the leaderboard with better scores during Rd. 2** By Alberto C. Medina - PRGA Staff Writer



*(Photo Credits: Steven Gibbons/USGA)*

**September 28, 2012** – Puerto Rico enjoyed an excellent second round Friday at the Women's World Amateur Team Championships,

climbing several spots on the leaderboard and getting into a good position to fight for a top-20 finish this weekend in Antalya, Turkey. The Puerto Rican team followed up its first-round of +9 with a very welcome +1 on the second day of play, this time on the seemingly more favorable New Course at Gloria Golf Club. María Torres led the way once again with an impressive round of -1 that included two birdies and an eagle on the par-5 fourth hole, while Kyle Roig added her solid +2 to the aggregate score. Patricia García, the team's third member, shot +3.

Now at +10, Puerto Rico improved from 34<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> place in one day and is currently second-best out of the eight Latin American teams competing in the event, behind only México and ahead of countries like Colombia, Brazil, and Argentina. Puerto Rico is also currently

T24		People's Republic of China <sup>1</sup>	+8	F	E	152	144	296
T24		Hong Kong, China <sup>1</sup>	+8	F	+1	151	145	296
26		Singapore <sup>2</sup>	+9	F	+9	144	153	297
27		Puerto Rico <sup>1</sup>	+10	F	+1	153	145	298
T28		Colombia <sup>2</sup>	+11	F	+10	145	154	299
T28		Malaysia <sup>1</sup>	+11	F	+1	154	145	299
T28		Argentina <sup>1</sup>	+11	F	+4	151	148	299

ahead of countries like Russia, the **HOST** nation, Turkey, and South Africa.

On the individual leaderboard, Torres, currently at +1, is tied for 29<sup>th</sup> place among the over 150 ladies representing their countries at the event.

South Korea, the defending champion, surged into the lead on Friday with a score of -8, and is currently dominating the competition with that same total score. Three countries are tied for second at -3: Germany, Canada, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.

Play continues early Saturday for María, Kyle, and Patricia, who will once again be first off the tee back at the Old Course, starting at 7:30 a.m. (12:30 a.m. local time).

The Women's Championship wraps up on Sunday for the Women's Championship before the men take center stage later that week.

# Women's WATC / Round 3 - News Release



## **Puerto Rico vaults into top-20 at Women's WATC by Alberto C. Medina - PRGA Staff Writer**

**(September 29, 2012)** – María Torres, Patricia García and Kyle Roig had the second-best round in the world on Saturday, combining for a score of -4 that catapulted Puerto Rico into a tie for 17th place with one round to go at the Women's World Amateur Golf Championship.

After Torres led the way in the first two days of the tournament, it was García and Roig whose scores of -2 each counted on Saturday, as Puerto Rico's -4 was second only to the United States (-7) in the third round and helped the Island's team improve 10 spots on the leaderboard, from 27<sup>th</sup> after two rounds. Both ladies enjoyed great rounds on the Old Course at Gloria Golf Club; García had four birdies on the front nine, and Roig avoided all bogeys until she doubled the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Torres, it bears mentioning, wasn't far behind: she shot -1 on the day and is now at even par for the tournament, which also places her tied for 17<sup>th</sup> out of over 150 golfers on the individual leaderboard.

Puerto Rico's best finish ever at the Women's WATC is 20<sup>th</sup>, achieved by this same team two years ago in Buenos Aires, so the ladies are poised to make history once again if they can manage to maintain or improve on their position on championship Sunday.

South Korea still leads the field at -11, and looks poised to capture its second consecutive title. New Zealand moved into sole possession of second place (-6) behind the strong play of top-ranked amateur in the world Lydia Ko, who leads all individual players with a score of -10. The Puerto Rican team will finish up play on the New Course beginning at 9:10 a.m. (2:10 a.m. local time). María, Patricia and Kyle will be

paired with México and Denmark, the two nations immediately above and below Puerto Rico in the standings.

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## Women's WATC / Round 4 - News Release

**PUR finishes among the Top 20 Best Women Teams in the World**

**By Alberto C. Medina - PRGA Staff Writer (September 30, 2012) –**

Puerto Rico has matched its best result ever at the Women's World Amateur Team Championship, finishing in 20th place at the 2012 event held in Antalya, Turkey.



María Torres, Kyle Roig and Patricia García, the same squad that finished 20th two years ago in Buenos Aires, wrapped up play on championship Sunday by shooting +1 on aggregate, which gave the team a total score of +7 for the tournament. That 20th position is a slight drop from the 17th place Puerto Rico enjoyed after three rounds,

but a dramatic improvement over the 34th position that the team held after the first day of play.

Puerto Rico was this close to a better finish; after four birdies on the front nine, Roig was -2 going into the final hole of the tournament. But she double-bogeyed to end up at even par, costing Puerto Rico the chance to finish at +5 and tied for 18th place with México.

Puerto Rico finished above all but México of the eight Latin American nations competing in the event, as well as above countries with proud golfing traditions like Wales and Scotland, sports superpowers like Russia and China, and the **HOST** nation, Turkey.

The Republic of Korea, which led since the second round of the tournament, won its second consecutive championship with a total score of -13. Korea held off a late charge from Germany (-10), which finished second after a fantastic final round of -7. Finland and Australia shared third place at -9.

On an individual level, Torres staked her place among the 30 best female amateur golfers in the world by finishing at +1 for the tournament, good for 26th place among the 157 golfers who saw action in Turkey. Roig was also among the top 50 individual players, as her total score of +7 earned her 48th place. Lydia Ko of New Zealand, the highest-ranked female amateur golfer in the world, won the individual title with a score of -14.

***The Puerto Rico Golf Association congratulates all three players, as well as captain Marilina Silén and coach Dean Spriddle, for proving that 2010 was no fluke and that Puerto Rico must be counted among the top-20 countries in the world when it comes to female amateur golf.***

Next up, we'll be following Robert Calvesbert, Erick Morales and Jerónimo Esteve, as the Men's Championship kicks off this Thursday.