

# Irem Potentate's Golf Tourney should attract 96 teams

by Lee L. Richards  
While on vacation last week down at Virginia Beach, I was surprised to read where Gov. John Brown of Kentucky wanted to oust UK grid coach Fran Curci and bring in former Redskins' mentor George Allen.

It irked me to read where Brown was peeved because Coach Curci didn't back him in the recent election. Brown didn't appreciate the fact Coach Curci remained neutral.

Meanwhile, Brown's attempted move to sack Curci, who still has four years remaining on his contract, met with a stonewall from the UK president on down to the

athletic committee. It seems the folks at UK like Coach Curci and want him to remain.

Brown's timing was poor in the first place. You don't dump a football coach with the season only weeks away and bring in a new guy. After two days of controversy, Coach Allen withdrew his name which in a way took Gov. Brown off the hook. Allen is a smart individual and realized now wasn't the time to step into a college job.

The press questioned Brown's motives and reasoning. Then they raked him over the coals. From what I've heard from several coaching pals Curci is a solid coach.

He's around the .500 mark at UK and has taken the Wildcats to a bowl game. However, UK has had its share of internal problems. Players being investigated by the NCAA, players suspended for rape and robbery. Curci seems to have just straightened things out when Brown comes forward seeking to dump him. I guess as Governor he doesn't have enough to do running the state?

Pro grid camps are starting and the fans I've talked with could care less about the baseball strike. Already many questions have emerged from the Eagles' camp. I don't believe they'll reach the Super Bowl again. What

they accomplished last season was through hard work and several breaks along the way. The Birds are still two or three players shy of being a great team. They lack deep threats at the receiver slots and outside running speed. The offensive line was most consistent last season. The coaching staff deserved a heap of praise, too.

Locally, I wasn't at all surprised to learn one of the Back Mountain Little League teams was in the thick of things for District laurels. It's still one of the soundest organizations around Wyoming Valley. Lance Hungerford, who has won a bunch of club

championships at Irem Temple Country Club, competed in the State Amateur Tourney at Oakmont C.C. in Pittsburgh over the weekend. On the Irem links, Lance is one tough dude to beat. He'll play Bob Bachman this week. Ed Rome is another threat.

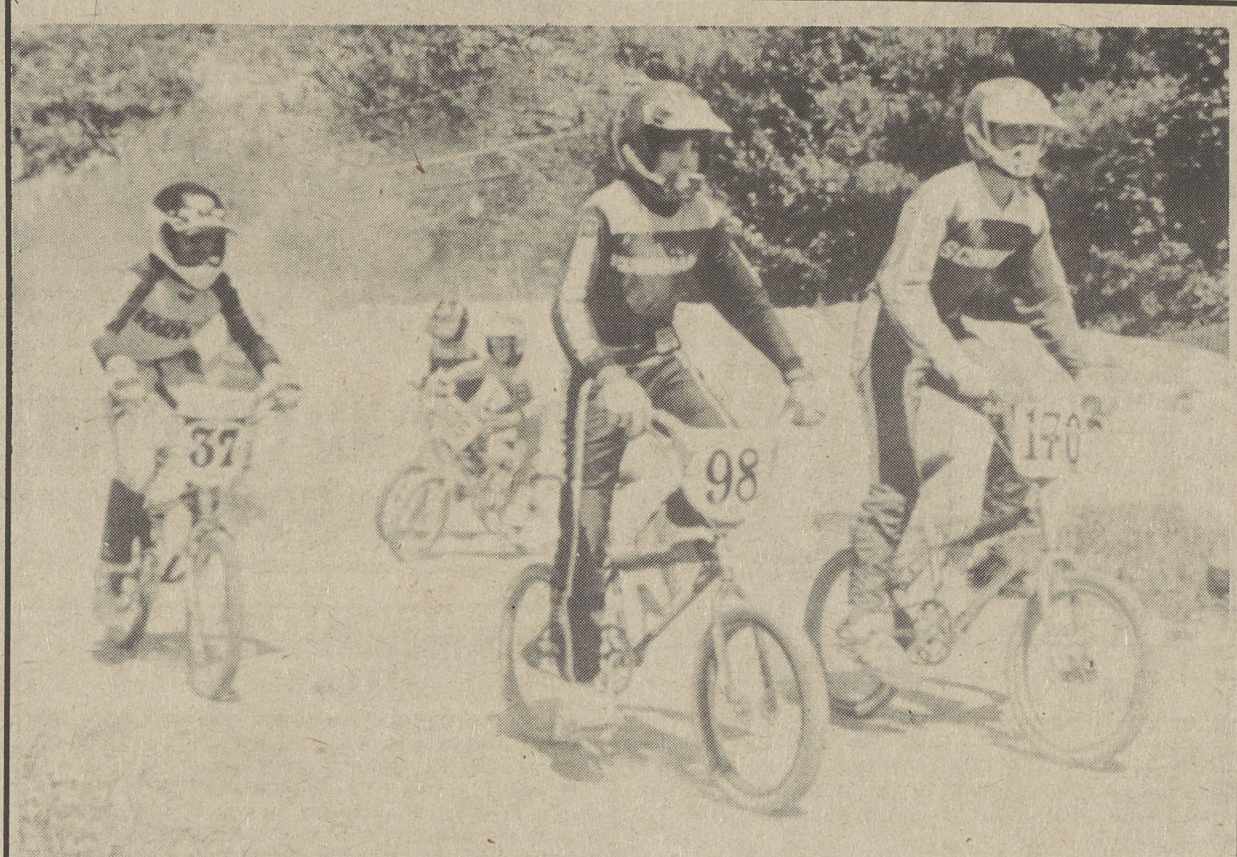
Next week is the Potentate's Golf Tourney at Irem and another top-notch field is expected to compete. Defending champs are Rollie Schmidt and Ed Hennigan and they'll be tough to dethrone. According to pro Barry Fies 82 teams have signed up for the tournament which begins next Friday. Top 16 scores from Friday's qualifying round will play match-play in championship flight with the next 16 teams going head-to-head in match play also. It's expected a field of 96 teams will participate.

golf goodies. I've read a bunch of stories about how the retailers, and they number in the hundreds, bring in tons of merchandise for the week long event. I've got a few Slazinger sweaters which are super. Then there's the links themselves. I'd just love to be able to tee it up the day after the final round to experience what the pros faced. To me the British Open is still one of the great tests of golf. They don't have to trump up a course like our USGA guys do.

Perhaps one of the most shocking events of the week was Jack Nicklaus carding an opening round 83. Incredible! He demonstrated once again with his class and poise why he's such a super player. No excuses. He just ripped off a neat 66 the following day. I liked his one remark, "I tried the best I could on every shot." All of us hackers could learn from Nicklaus. Nothing was mentioned about Gary Player carding an 81 that same day. Jack grabbed

all the headlines. Wasn't it great for Arnie Palmer to come from six shots back to capture the U.S. Open Seniors title in a playoff last week? I couldn't help but think of when he lost the playoff to Billy Casper in the U.S. Open in the 1960s when I heard Casper was involved in three-way playoff.

Speaking of golf, I know one thing it's a game nobody can really master. That little white ball will at times wind up in some peculiar places.



THE LEHMAN BMX PARK INC.—in conjunction with the Luzerne County Recreation Commission, will sponsor a Luzerne County Championship Bicycle Motocross Race (BMX) on Sunday, July 26 at the Lehman Fairgrounds Rte. 118. Registrations will be from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Race begins promptly at 1 p.m. The race approved by the American Bicycle Association (ABA) is open to girls and boys of all ages. Classes are divided into age groups, novice and expert. Applicants must be an ABA licensed rider. Applications for ABA membership will be available at the track. Trophies will be awarded from 1st through 5th place. Local riders will be competing as well as riders from neighboring states. Another attraction will be a Pro-Purse of \$100 with a 100 percent payback. This event is cosponsored by Bryants Bike Shop and Keepers Army & Navy Store. Chris Frederick, 37, Harveys Lake, Keith Koptcho, 98, Dallas, and Bill Wildwald, 70, of Kingston, are shown warming up.

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