

Tiger effect or not, turnout for golf hits new highs

Dallas golf coach Tom Kilduff has a large, but unusual group of players competing for a chance to play this year. With eight seniors and a large crop of freshmen, he has experience and youth, but not much in between.

About 24 players are out for the team, more than typical. "It goes in cycles," Kilduff said, "and this is a time we're up."

The roster is likely to shrink though, as most of the squad doesn't get to play in matches so some players lose interest as the season goes on. Six players make up the varsity roster for each match, and unless their performance slips, there isn't much change in who they are. Another two to four players compete in matches,

Mike Sharok has seen a lot in his 15+ years as Lake-Lehman golf coach, but this year's turnout of 25 to 30 players is something new. "It's unbelievable," Sharok said of the roster, which will include a handful of girls along with 20 or more boys.

While the team is loaded with players, it's a little short on experience. Five letter winners return from last year: juniors Chad Sorber and Joe Hardisky, and Gary Sagan, Matt Loftus and Dominic Castragano, sophomores. The only seniors are Ed Sichter and Jim Picavaggi, who saw some action last year. They are joined by about five sophomores and a dozen or more freshmen new to the team. One appeal of the Black Knight pro-

pects.

Kilduff said most of his players were introduced to the game by family members, or perhaps a friend who played the game. "You don't see a lot of kids picking it up on their own," said the 10-year mentor. He praises the Anthracite Golf Association, which gives young players the chance to compete throughout the summer. When it comes time to select the starters, those who have played competitively through the summer have an edge.

While most of the team members take private lessons to both before and during the season, at no charge. Sharok expects to have at least three girls on the team, and perhaps more, but playing from the white tees will be a challenge.

"It's tough for them to compete," he said, when they have to hit from the regular tees. Girls used red tees in past years, but the rule was changed, possibly in response to players like Lake-Lehman's Nikki Sennett, who was a standout a few years ago.

Wyoming Seminary and Tunkhannock

improve their skills, Kilduff works on strategy and tactics. "It's a very mental game," he said. One aspect is a golfer's perception that his opponent is unbeatable. "If you beat someone once, he's likely to think he can never beat you," Kilduff said.

Last year's 11-4 record might look good in other sports, but it wasn't enough to get Dallas into the playoffs, so there's no room for letdowns. Kilduff said Wyoming Seminary, Bishop Hefey, Lake-Lehman and Tunkhannock look strong this season, along with his own team and perhaps Coughlin.

The best players will compete in state championship matches before the season ends.

are the teams to beat. Sharok thinks, and he's looking forward to watching his Knights' progress. "This will be a good year to see how we've improved," he said, hoping to move up from last year's 10th-place finish in the Wyoming Valley Conference.

A math and French teacher with 31 years tenure at Lake-Lehman, Sharok has seen his share of new players, and says they arrive with a wide range of experience.

"I see kids who know the game," he said, and others who first picked up a club in August. The biggest shortcoming, he said, is not knowing the rules of the game and its etiquette well enough.

Dallas GOLF

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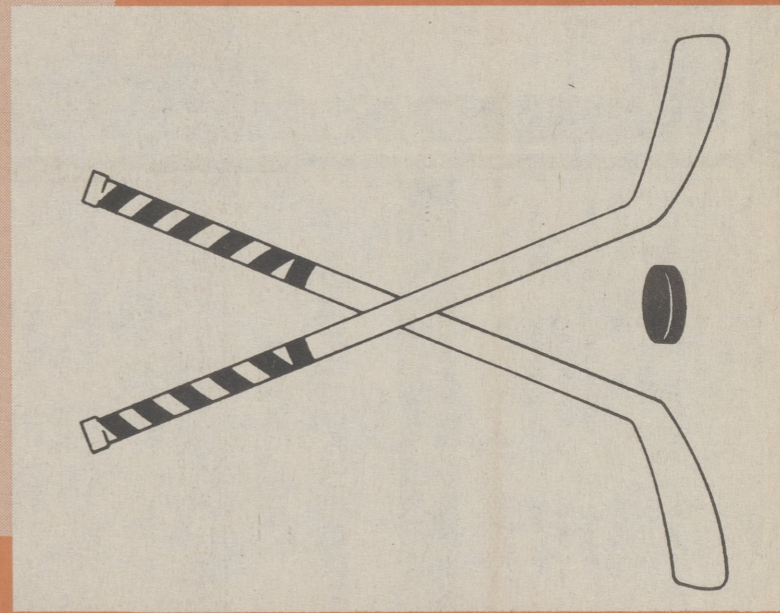
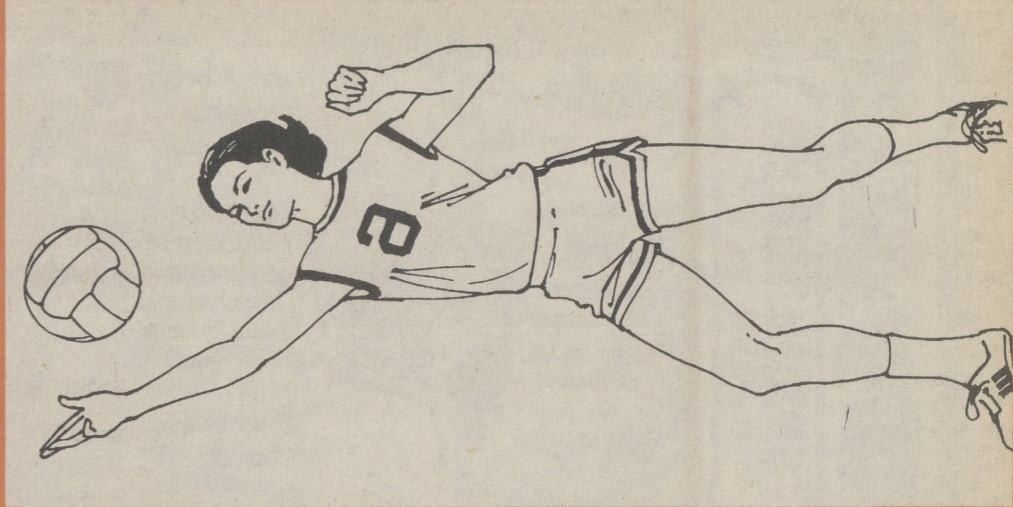
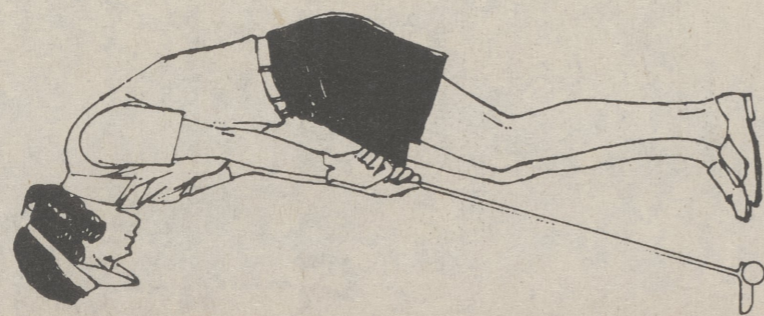
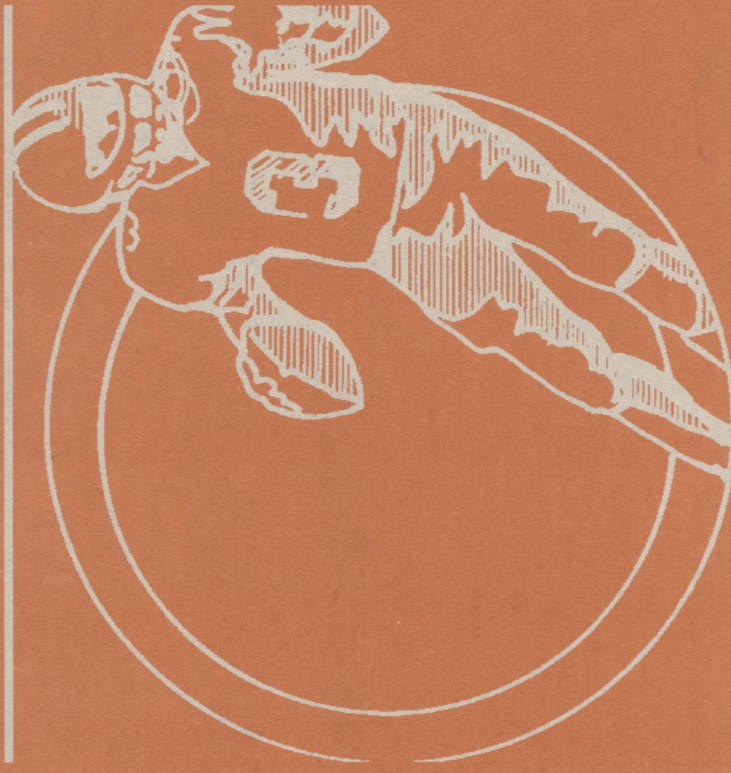
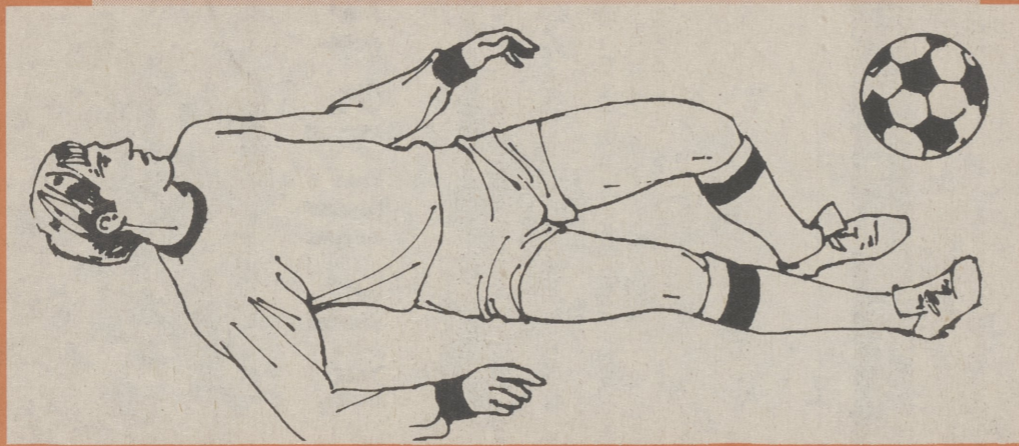
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Lake-Lehman GOLF

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Wyoming Seminary and Tunkhannock

FALL SPORTS PREVIEW



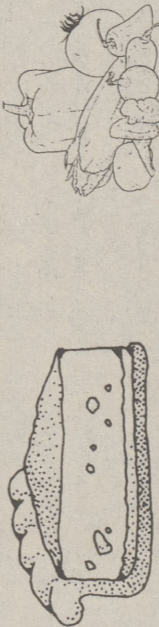
1997

Supplement to
The Dallas Post

September 3, 1997

Dymond's

Farm Market & Bakery



1997 DALLAS GOLF			
Day	Date	Opponent	Place
Mon.	Aug. 25	Hazleton	Sugarloaf
Wed.	Aug. 27	Nanticoke	Muhlenburg
Fri.	Aug. 29	WWW	Irem
Tues.	Sept. 2	Berwick	Irem
Thurs.	Sept. 4	Hanover	W. Valley CC
Mon.	Sept. 8	Bishop Hoban	W-B Muni
Thurs.	Sept. 11	Wyoming Seminary	Irem
Mon.	Sept. 15	Coughlin	Irem
Thurs.	Sept. 18	Pittston	Emanon
Mon.	Sept. 22	Bishop Hefey	Valley CC
Thurs.	Sept. 25	Crestwood	Irem
Mon.	Sept. 29	Wyoming Area	Fox Hill
Thurs.	Oct. 2	Lake-Lehman	Irem
Mon.	Oct. 6	Tunkhannock	Irem
Thurs.	Oct. 9	Bishop O'Reilly	Irem

Match Time: 3 p.m. Coach: Tom Kilduff

675-1696

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1997 LAKE - LEHMAN GOLF	
Aug. 25	Bishop Hefey
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Sept. 29	Wyoming Valley West
Oct. 2	Dallas
Oct. 6	Nanticoke
Oct. 9	Wyoming Area

Coach: Mike Sharok

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