U.S. Open

(continued from page 9)

though, so I still have about 150 yards to the green, with a large irrigation pond between me and it. But first Dave hits a 7 iron from farther than he should, and drowns the ball. Only then does he notice the 150 markers don't go straight across the fairway, and he was about 165 out. My approach is long enough, but pushed right, so the ball lands on the right fringe. A chip and two puts later I have a bogey

Next up is the first of the holes on the back nine Tim said to watch out for. Sharply downhill, #13 measures 410 yards from the green tees, and a helpful greenskeeper warns us "don't go right" on the fairway. Before teeing up, we ask him about preparing the rough for the Open qualifier. Tall rough, usually about 5 inches, is the hallmark of the U.S. Open and while Huntsville's rough is thick, it's not that tall. He says they'll probably have an intermediate rough only about 3 feet wide and 1 1/2 inches high, then grow it to 3 inches. We're glad they haven't done that yet

We also learn about the "Rule of 41," which will be used to determine pin placements. For all professional tournaments, the greens are divided into four sections, and the pin positions rated from 1 to 4, hardest to easiest. On the first day of competition, the pins are set so that their total values add to 41. The total goes down on subsequent days, to as low as 35 on the final day. For the Open qualifier, 41 will be used, and our friendly greenskeeper says that's about how difficult they are posi-

Dave has honors, but didn't listen very well and ends up in the right rough. I, on the other hand, hit the best drive so far, long and straight down the left side. My approach is a little short (and doesn't roll on that soft apron), but a chip to 3 feet results in another par, at last.

Are we tired yet? Physically, yes, but the weather has been great, the course is a delight, and we're feeling severely challenged. but not beaten up. On to the final

The 14th is one of those holes that will play entirely differently for Open hopefuls than it does for us. A relatively short par 5 — it's about 480 from our tees, the challenge is in the second shot, which can go directly at the green over a yawning ravine, or take the scenic route to the left around a grove of fir trees. After poor drives, Dave decides to hazard the direct line.

"We're not going to ambush anybody. We think it's a very fair course. It can be tamed."

Golf Director, Huntsville Golf Club and I go left. In the end we both take five strokes to reach the green,

Tim Foran

but he sinks a 30-foot putt to salvage a bogey Adding insult to injury, the tees on #15 are at 195 yards, not the usual 177. We're game, but both

tee shots fall short and we chip and two putt for bogeys. Now we're at #16, a modest par 4 that Tim said the pros had better par. Well, so do I, after a good drive, an underestimated ap-

proach, a chip and a putt. The penultimate hole (next to last, for the English-challenged) is a par 3 that is playing about 150 yards this day. For the third time I find a trap, a sneaky one on the right side of the green, where I'm pin high. Dave is smugly on the green and will make par. I

blast out a little too strong and

need two to get down. Finally, #18, the last hole Tim said needs to be par or better to have a chance at advancing. It's playing 415 yards, slightly uphill, with bunkers along the left side of the fairway. Rated the fourth most difficult, it becomes even stronger at the end of the round. Dave and I take opposite tracks — I'm in the left rough, and he's in the right. We both come up short of the green on our approaches, and after he hits a wedge within eight feet of the pin, I stick one three feet inside his ball. We walk away with bogeys and a feeling of satisfaction if not of conquest.

The tale of the tape? I shoot 94 and feel the score could easily be 90 or less, while Dave makes an 86. It doesn't help my ego any when he falls ill a few days later, and confesses that he wasn't feeling too well the day we played:

So, what's the assessment of two weekend warriors? We have to agree with Tim Foran, who describes the course this way during an interview the next day. "We're not going to ambush anybody," he says. "We think it's a very fair course. It can be tamed." Easy for him - a scratch golfer to say. But we can't argue that given a couple of more rounds, and fewer stray shots, we couldn't bring our scores down a halfdozen strokes. Maybe next time.



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Mike Molino, assistant pro at Huntsville, drove off the #11 tee. Being a pro, he went over the tree, not around it.

Local competitors are ready for the challenge

Monday, hoping to get a crack at the U.S. Open? Among the 26 amateurs and 26 pros, there are a few familiar names to anyone watching the local golf scene. Here's who is signed up from the Back Mountain and the Abingtons:

Thomas Motovidlak of Harveys Lake will tee off at 10 a.m; Brian Corbett of Dallas will follow at 10:10; David Fields of Clarks Summit is in the next group at 10:20; Terry Hurst of Clarks Summit follows at 10:30; Mike Molino, who is the assistant pro at Huntsville will tee off at 10:50, and former Dallas High standout Tom Klimek of Shavertown will hit his first drive at 11:10.

Molino, who played his college golf at the University of Charleston in West Virginia, has been preparing in his own way, sometimes sneaking out to the far end of the practice range to hit balls for an hour at a time. He was one of two qualifiers last year, in a tournament held at the Williamsport Country Club.

"It's very, very exciting. Once you get through here, you're on the doorstep," he said. Last year's step was pretty high, though, he said, as 10 or 11 players from the Nike tour showed up for the sectional tournament held at Sunnehanna in Pittsburgh, including Nodah Begay, who had shot a 59 during the regular sea-

So who's playing at Huntsville son. There will be 13 sectional tournaments around the nation this year, and a local qualifier can go to any of them as long as there's room.

As for Pinehurst the site of the Open, Molino has played there, though he couldn't recall on which of the several courses. "It's quite a place," he said.

Though he's a scratch golfer, Molino's boss, Tim Foran, isn't in the field this year. "I tried several times when I was in Philadelphia," he said. At that time it was a 36-hole tournament, which made stamina more important.

Terry Hurst is the head professional at the Country Club of Scranton in Clarks Summit. "I call this the round of possibility," he said. "The sectional tournament is the round of impossibility because the competition is so tough." That's partly because former PGA Tour players are trying to qualify, too, and they have plenty of tournament experience.

Hurst thinks one or two shots below par will be enough to move up, which may be a little higher score than would be needed in the South. "In the Northeast, people haven't really been playing golf that much yet," he said.

The first group will tee off at 8:30 a.m. Monday, the last at 11:20 a.m. Spectators are welcome, there is no admission fee.

by Ronald Bartizek

Roundup

(continued from page 1)

Lehman 7, Dallas 1

Vicki Groff knocked in three runs with three hits including two doubles as Lehman regained first place in the league standings. Jen Johnstone, Tricia Kernag, and Colleen Mahon contributed for the Knights with doubles. Michelle Alters pitched five innings to earn the win, allowing only the run on four hits. Tricia Kernag got the final six outs. Sarah Stolarick, who took the loss on the mound, knocked in the only Mountaineer run with a single in the fourth to score Sarah Rodgers, who had led off the inning with a double.

Lehman 5, GAR 1

Tricia Kernag allowed 1 hit and no runs over four innings to pick up the mound victory. She walked none and struck out six. Becca Pugh pitched the final three innings to earn the save. Laura Maslowski led Lehman's offense. She had two of the team's three

BASEBALL

Lehman 9, Crestwood 1

The Black Knights cruised to an easy win behind Gregg Woronko's six-hit outing. Woronko also slammed a home run. Chad Sorber was 2-for-4 with a run scored, and Jake Rambus was 2-for-3 with a double and two

Meyers 14, Dallas 13

It wasn't exactly a slugfest, as the Mounts managed 13 runs on only seven hits, with seven runs being unearned. Josh Dukas had four of the hits, three rbi and two runs scored. J.J. Smith was 2for-5 with a couble and three rbi.

Nanticoke 7, Lehman 3

Lehman lost a tough one to fall into a tie with Nanticoke for the final AA playoff berth. Of the seven Nanticoke runs, only one was earned due to several fielding mistakes.

first two innings and never looked

back in a rout of mighty Hanover

Dallas 15, Hanover 5 Dallas scored 7 times in the

on May 12. Randy Knappman earned the win on the mound by striking out 5 and only giving up two earned runs in five innings. Jason Baker hit a three-run homerun to push the lead to 12-0 by the fourth inning. Josh Dukas and John Habrack each scored three times.

Nanticoke 6, Dallas 3

Dallas fell into a tie for a playoff berth with a home loss to Nanticoke. Dallas only managed six singles during the game. Chris Banks earned two of those. Shortstop Jeremy Harris scored two of the Mountaineers' runs. John Habrack struck out nine in taking the loss on the mound.

TENNIS

District 2 Tournament In singles action held at Marywood, Mike Cleary of Dallas made it to the quarterfinals before being eliminated by Scranton Prep's Suraj Rao 6-1, 6-0. The other Dallas representative in the field, Marcus Sowcik, made it to the second round. Lehman's Dan Nygren was eliminated by Rao in the first round.

GIRLS TRACK

Bishop Hoban 63, Dallas 59

Dallas 79, Nanticoke 21 Stacey Wagner had three first place finishes to help Dallas earn a split in a tri-meet on May 11. She earned titles in the 100 hurdles, 200 dash, and 300 hurdles. Aileah Kvashay added individual first place wins in the shot put and the discus. Kate Weiss finished second behind Kvashay in both events.

BOYS TRACK

Nanticoke 77, Dallas 70

Bishop Hoban 76, Dallas 70 Justin Tamanini (discus) and Eric George (200 dash) earned the only Mountaineers' individual first place finishes in a tri-meet on May 11. Tamanini also took third overall in the shot put, with teammate Chuck Suppon taking second in that event.

BMT ball

(continued from page 1)

Rangers 20, Indians 13

Chris Kester tripled twice and drove in 5 runs to lead the Rangers. Ryan Marascio had 3 singles and JJ Durr 2 singles and a double to contribute to the attack. Also, Ken Chamberlain doubled and singled while Brandon Rice singledtwice for the winners. Rice, Kester and Chamberlain combined to strike out 9. For the Indians, Nick Oschman and Mike Lloyd each went 3 for 5 while Jon Baker had a single and a double. Baker, Oschman and Ian Van Kuyk combined to strike out 10 Rangers.

SOFTBALL

Dodgers 10, Bob Horlacher Brewers 5

Sara Brown struck out 17 in registering the victory. Jennifer Walp had 2 hits and Joanna Williamson tripled for the win-

JUNIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Back Mountain Indians 20. **Back Mountain Pirates 12**

Mike Wills and Mark Kapitula each belted inside-the-park homers for the Indians. Kapitula also smacked 3 other hits. On the mound, Kapitula, Frank Buzin and Chris Higdon combined to strike out 11 Pirates.

Keystone Blacktopping 22, **Back Mountain Braves 17**

Josh Wysocki and Jonathon Wood combined to strike out 14 in a losing cause. Wood went 3 for 6 with 2 doubles and 3 RBIs while Nick Greives went 5 for 5 with 3 RBIs and Matt Katyl went 5 for 6 with 3 RBIs. For Keystone. Barancho went 4 for 6 with a double and struck out 7 Braves. Spittel went 2 for 6.



Hot Shot boys

Winners of the Boys Division of the Lake-Lehman Middle Level "Hot Shot" Basketball contest. From left, bottom row, (Seventh Grade) Ryan Besteder, third place; Jim Howell, second place; Robert Phillips, fourth place; and Joshua Wysocki, first place. Top row, (Eighth Grade) Josh Marth, fourth place; Andrew Coombs, third place; Brad Baird, first place; and Aaron Pagoda, second place.



Hot Shot girls

Winners of the Girls Division of the Lake-Lehman Middle School Level "Hot Shot" basektball contest. From left, bottom row: (Seventh Grade) Blair Welter, third place; Susan Barber, second place; Lizzy Martin, first place; and Kara Makarewicz, fourth place. Top row, (Eighth Grade) Vanessa Wengen, second place; Casey Horvath, third place; Megan DeCesaris, first place and Jenna Fine, fourth place.

Harveys Lake foot race will be revived, added to in June

The Wyoming Valley Striders in conjunction with Wysocki's Sole Authority and members of Our Lady of Victory Church are pleased to announce the rebirth of the annual Harveys Lake foot race. After months of careful planning a coalition has been formed that will allow the continuation of the most successful road race in the

The primary sponsor for this year's race is adidas USA.Race organizers expect the largest field in the history of the race for the 8.1 mile course.

In addition to the traditional race around the lake, there will be

a 1/2 mile race for children up to 14 years of age. Prizes for both runs will be donated by adidas,

In keeping with tradition, race day will be the third Saturday in June (6-19). In response to many requests, the starting time has been changed to 8:30 a.m. in order to avoid the warmest hours of the day and to cut down on traffic.

The proceeds of this year's race will be divided between the Cultural Council of Luzerne County and Our Lady of Victory Church.

Further information and race applications, contact Vince Wojnar, 474-5363.

Triathlon names major sponsor

Wyoming Valley Health Care System will once again be the major corporate sponsor of the Wilkes-Barre Triathlon. The 1999 race marks the 12th consecutive year that the Wyoming Valley Health Care System has demonstrated its commitment to the event.

The 18th Wilkes-Barre Triathlon, slated for August 8, will do double duty as it is hosting the ITU North American Championships and will also serve as an Olympic Qualifier for elite triathletes looking to earn a spot in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

Race director Jim Harris III expects athletes from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the United States will be entered in this year's race. The race also attracts nearly 500 local and regional triathletes.

For more information on this year's race or becoming a volunteer, call the Wilkes-Barre Triathlon hotline at 822-2025.

Basketball camps at Dallas HS

Dallas head basketball coach, Pat McCue will ble holding camps the week of June 7-11, June 14-18, and June 21-25. Camps are open to boys and girls ages eight through 14. All camps will be run at the Senior High School gymnasium from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Camp is designed to teach all fundamentals of ball handling and passing. All campers will receive a t-shirt.

Registration will be held May 27-28 between 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the senior high gym. For further information, contact Coach McCue at 287-5668 or 675-1954.

Irem Women's Choice 9 hole tournament

Irem Women's Golf Association's A Choice 9 Hole Tournament was held recently with the following winners:

Weekly Prizes: 1st Flight, Sis Ertley; 2nd Flight, Sun Hee Koo; 3rd Flight, Lois DeGennaro; 4th Flight, Theresa Balliet. Putting Prizes: 1st Flight, Sis Ertley; 2nd Flight, Kay Goodman; 3rd Flight, Jane Boltz; 4th Flight, Ann Nicholson.



Dallas jr. high wrestlers honored

Dallas Jr. High wrestling banquet was held recently at Newberry Estates. Pictured above. Tom Traver Asst. Coach, Todd Jones, Perry Coolbaugh, Mike Richards, Head Coach, Jeremy Harris, Matt

Todd Jones finishd 3rd at Districts and received Most Pins Award. Perry Coolbaugh finished 2nd at Districts and received Coaches Award. Jeremy Harris finished 2nd at Districts and received Most Courageous Award. Matt Carey finished 2nd at Districts and received Most Pins Award (12), Most Team Points (94) and Most Improved Award. Mike Yenason, absent from picture, received the Student Academic Achievement Award.

Send your sports reports by

e-mail to: dalpost@aol.com