

Sports Week

Section 2
May 19, 1999

Huntsville hosts Open qualifier

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I had asked Tim to point out some key spots he thought would present a challenge to the pros. He described holes #4, #6 and #8 on the front nine, and #13, #16 and #18 on the back as "strategic to your round. If you can make par on these, you're in pretty good shape," he said. We were a bit surprised at his picks, because while #6, #8 and #18 are highly rated, the others were listed as middling to easy on the scorecard.

Dr. Jack Ellis was ready to tee off on #1, a par five, as we approached. He and his playing partner, Dr. Patrick DeGennaro, are members of the club, and Ellis looked it as he powered a drive over a bunker on the right side of the fairway. DeGennaro, who said he has played golf since he was 20, is impressed with his home course. "This is definitely the hardest course I've played," he said.

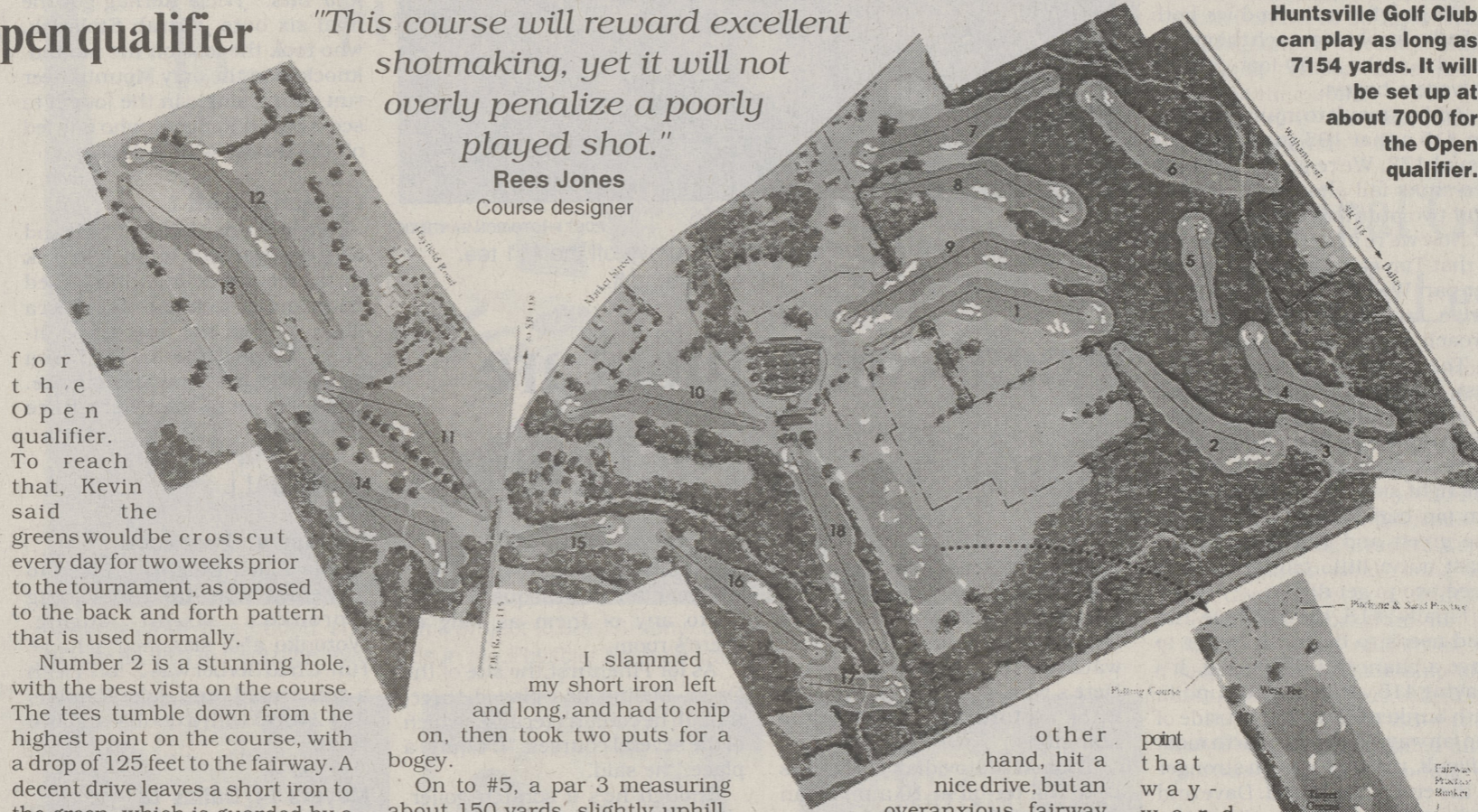
Ellis attributed some of the difficulty to special long grass that is dotted along the rough. "The fescue is the biggest equalizer when you get off the fairway," he said. We will learn that staying out of the rough, fescue or not, is important on this course, which looks more docile than it plays.

We decided to play the green tees, which are the middle ground of a quintet of positions, measuring about 6,500 yards. The next step back is a little over 6,800 and the course measures 7,154 from the hero tees.

After I scrambled to a bogey six on the opening hole — Dave parred it — we ran into Kevin Kneal, who is in his fourth year as a greenskeeper at Huntsville. Since we had forgotten to hit the practice green, we asked him how fast they were. He guessed they were running at 6 or 7 on the "stimp meter," a device used to measure green speed, but would be about 11 — just shy of your kitchen floor

"This course will reward excellent shotmaking, yet it will not overly penalize a poorly played shot."

Rees Jones
Course designer



Huntsville Golf Club can play as long as 7154 yards. It will be set up at about 7000 for the Open qualifier.

For the Open qualifier. To reach that, Kevin said the greens would be crosscut every day for two weeks prior to the tournament, as opposed to the back and forth pattern that is used normally.

Number 2 is a stunning hole, with the best vista on the course. The tees tumble down from the highest point on the course, with a drop of 125 feet to the fairway. A decent drive leaves a short iron to the green, which is guarded by a bunker in front, one of 10 on the hole. On this day the pin was in about as tough a spot as you could find, tucked in the back left, behind the bunker and in front of mounds that will stop an overly aggressive shot, except for mine. We both took double bogeys on this one, and hoped that was the end of our jitters.

We felt better after regulation pars on #3, which was playing about 170 yards, and headed for #4, the first of the holes Tim had said were important to a good score. There's a modest carry to the fairway, which Dave just cleared, but I smacked a decent drive and left a 9 iron to the green. Dave was first, and hit his trusty 7 wood to within about 15 feet of the pin. "Maybe I'll get a birdie here and make up for that double bogey," he said hopefully. But his approach putt slid by the whole and he had to settle for par. Me?

I slammed my short iron left and long, and had to chip on, then took two puts for a bogey.

On to #5, a par 3 measuring about 150 yards, slightly uphill, with a brace of bunkers on the hard-sloping right side of the green. Dave was on the dance floor, but I went left again, probably from fear of going right, and took another bogey.

At this point, Dave is feeling pretty good, and offers that he's played tougher courses in the Poconos. He will come to regret that statement.

Now for the big challenge, #6, the top-rated hole at Huntsville, a par 4 that measured 415 from the green tees, and can stretch as long as 455. I had played the course on a "Media Day" when it first opened, and recalled 200 yards of rushes and scrub between tee and green. But that's mostly gone now, and the carry to the fairway isn't unreasonable. After fading a solid tee shot into the trees, I think the next one short of the fairway. This was not going to be a triumph. Dave, on the

other hand, hit a nice drive, but an overanxious fairway wood left him short of the green and he left with a 5. I'd rather not tell my score, but I did get to see a lot of this magnificent golf hole.

The next hole is another hefty par 4, uphill. Thinking I hit a pretty good drive, we arrive at my ball to find I'm still 210 yards from the short grass. A fairway wood catches the left rough just before the green, which thankfully keep it out of a big trap. Bogeys around on this one.

We're ready for a break by now, but no mercy is offered by #8, a dogleg right 410 yard par 4, with tall trees on the right side as you approach the green. That means you want to stay left on the drive, and of course, we both go right — way right for me. Fortunately we have good lies and end up just shy of the green. As on many of the holes, the fairway necks down as it approaches the green to the

point that wayward shots on either side are in trouble of one sort or another. We both chip to within six feet, but miss pretty straightforward putts. "Oh, Dave," my playing partner mutters to himself.

Well, we're nearly halfway around now, and still looking for the course to ease up on us. The ninth, a 522 yard par 5 with a reasonably generous landing area, really shouldn't be all that difficult, but I make it hard. Dave takes a six, I log a double bogey and we head for the halfway house, where the hot dogs are kosher and the mustard is not grey poupon.

As we approach the 10th hole, Dave asks if I think the front or back nine is harder. I can't recall, and it really doesn't seem to matter at this point, since we know

there aren't going to be any easy holes.

We learn a little more about conditions on #10, when I land a chip just off the green, and it dies there. Walking up to the ball, the ground feels like a millionaire's carpet, soft and spongy, so there's little roll. We find out later the aprons had been aerated and watered the evening before. We both take bogey 5's, and head to #11, one of the most distinctive holes on the course.

You can see #11 from Old Rt. 115, on the left if you're heading toward Penn State. The hole offers a Hobson's choice; a split fairway where the left route is shorter but will require a deadeye uphill approach over bunkers, or

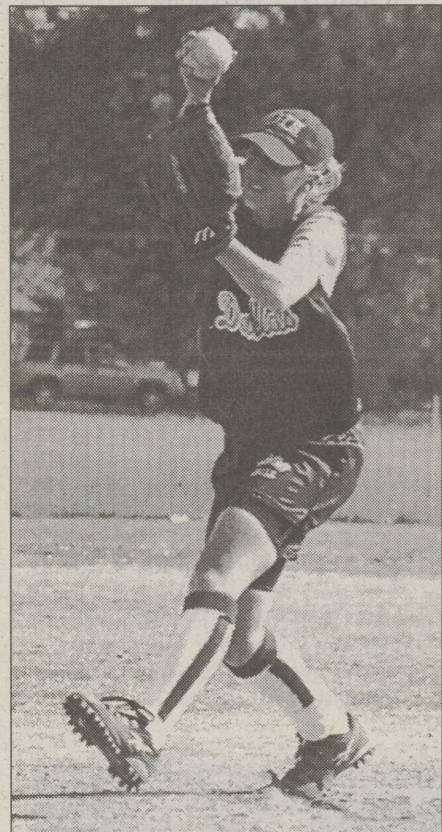
"I've played a lot of courses, but I've never seen anything like this."

Dave Gribbin
Commenting on the 11th hole

the longer right that offers the chance to run the ball onto the green. "I've played a lot of courses," Dave says, "but I've never seen anything like this." We opt for the left side, which is not a good idea for mere mortals, but Dave puts his drive in perfect position. Not me, and it takes me three shots in all to get up near the green. Dave, on the other hand, hits his magic 7 wood really well, but is disappointed when the ball lands short of the green, in the rough. But he loves uphill chips, puts this one close and holes the putt for par. Triumph at last!

The par 5 12th is yet another scenic and challenging hole, and it will be our only encounter with water. Neither of us finds the fairway, but I get lucky when my hard pull runs through a bunker. Coming out of the rough isn't easy,

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POST PHOTOS/JIM PHILLIPS

This day was all Knights

Lake-Lehman owned Dallas last Friday, jumping to a 3-0 lead and finishing the game with a convincing 7-1 victory. In left photo, Dallas

starter Sarah Stolarick wound up for a pitch. In right photo, Jen Noon put a tag on Lehman's Colleen Mahon.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

SOCCER

Valley West 4, Dallas 0

Valley West outshot Dallas 32-25 in a game played May 12, but the Mountaineer offense could not find the net in those 25 shots. Dallas keeper Melonie Sappe made 19 saves.

Wyoming Sem 4, Dallas 3

Dallas held two one-goal leads in the game, but gave up a goal in the second period of overtime to fall to Seminary, knocking the Mountaineers out of playoff contention. Jeannie Dreier had two goals in the first fifteen minutes to lead Dallas. Keeper Melonie Sappe made 17 saves.

Lehman 1, Bishop Hoban 0

Lehman outshout Hoban by a 26-1 to margin to earn the victory on May 14. Janna Elston scored the lone goal of the game midway through the first half off an assist from Rachel Farley. Keeper Trish Pilosi earned the shutout without

even having to make a save.

VOLLEYBALL

Lehman 2, Crestwood 0

It was a clean sweep for the Black Knights, who won 15-0, 15-0 at Crestwood. Jeff Welby led Lehman with a dozen service points, while Tom Brislin, Noah Pickett and Russ Wenrich had four kills each.

Lehman 2, Abington 0

Lehman defeated Abington by scores of 15-2, 15-3 on May 11. Russ Mosier had 24 assists and 10 of the 30 service points to lead the Knights. Russ Weinrich contributed with 10 kills and 4 blocks and Nate Walters added five blocks.

Lehman 2, Coughlin 0

Lehman remained unbeaten in league play with a victory over Coughlin by a score of 15-0, 15-5. For the second consecutive year, Coughlin did not have much of a

chance in the first game to earn any points as Mike Kostrobala served fifteen consecutive times for points. Nate Walters added 20 assists.

SOFTBALL

Lehman 4, Wyo. Area 3

The Lady Knights refused to lose Monday, coming back from a 2-1 deficit to score twice in the seventh inning, then getting the winning run in the eighth in a game played at the Warriors' field. The win keeps Lehman on top of the Class AA standings with one game left in the regular season. Tricia Kernag was the winning pitcher, giving up five hits in seven innings. Michelle Alters picked up the save. Colleen Mahon went 2-for-4 at the plate with an rbi.

Dallas 10, Hanover 9

Dallas kept its playoff hopes alive with a last-inning run to claim the win. Jen Noon was 3-for-4, including the winning hit

that scored Amanda Stolarick. Sherri Kuderka went 2-for-4 with 4 rbi. Amanda Stolarick picked up the win, going five innings in relief of Sarah Stolarick.

Dallas 2, Bishop Hoban 1

Stephanie Simonitis scored off a single by Amanda Stolarick in the bottom of the eighth inning to give Dallas a come-from-behind extra-inning victory over Bishop Hoban. Simonitis led Dallas offensively by scoring both runs and collecting three hits. Sarah Stolarick pitched a complete game, striking out three.

Dallas 3, Wyoming Area 0

Sarah Stolarick continued her hot pitching with a one-hit, one-walk performance against the Warriors. Amanda Stolarick again led the Mountaineer offense by driving in two of the three runs and collecting three hits in three at-bats.

Marchakitus powers Reds to win

Reds 7, Orioles 6

Luke Marchakitus smashed a 3-run home run and 2 singles to lead the Reds victory. Jake Stryjowski also registered 3 hits for the winners while teammates Brandon Brown and John Parulski each doubled. Ben Rother and Zach Polin had 2 hits apiece for the Orioles.

Phillies 11, Yankees 1

Matt Shiskowski, Matt Kapitula and Ryan Konopki combined to strike out 12 without allowing a hit. Nate Carr led the Phillies offense with 3 hits, including 2 doubles. Kapitula doubled twice while Brandon Burkhardt tripled and singled and Shiskowski and Ronnie Ritts each doubled. Steve Fritz struck out 6 in 3 innings of pitching for the Yankees.

Red Sox 9, Rangers 6

Elijah Miller went 4 for 4 with a double and a triple to lead the Red Sox. Neil Ballenca had 2 hits, including a double, while Matt Kelly and Matt Shumbris each singled twice for the winners. Kelly and Shumbris combined to strike out 7. Ryan Marasco struck out 11 for the Rangers. Chris Kester went 3 for 4 while Ken Chamberlain, Brandon Rice and Joe Bailey each had 2 hits.

Cardinals 7, Pirates 6

Matt Straub struck out 10 in garnering the complete game victory. Matt Fuhr led the Cardinal offense with a triple and 2 singles while Mike Stolarick, Straub and Steven Yankowski each singled twice. For the Pirates, Grant Roberts had 3 hits and Steven Cornia had 2. Gracjan Kraszewski struck out 5 Cardinals.

Astros 6, Reds 5

Jason Demnicki and Scott Carter combined to strike out 12 for the winners. Demnicki had 2 singles and a double while David Harrison had a single and a double. For the Reds, Jake Stryjowski picked up 2 hits while Brandon Brown and Ryan Bloom each doubled.

Giants 5, Red Sox 3

Eric Samanas struck out 13 to

lead the Giants to victory. David Harding's 2 doubles and Kyle Mahle's 2 singles powered the Giants offense. Elijah Miller and Matt Shumbris combined for 11 strikeouts for the Red Sox. At the plate, Miller went 3 for 3 with a triple and Shumbris had a single and a double.

Dodgers 7, Rangers 4

Brendan Delaney, Jeff Clemente and John Giampietro combined for 12 strikeouts in holding the Rangers in check. Ken Gemberling smacked 2 hits, including a double, and Delaney had 2 singles to power the Dodger offense. Chris Kester had 3 hits for the Rangers while JJ Durr and Brandon Rice had 2 apiece.

Giants 18, A's 1

Eric Donzalski struck out 6 while allowing just 1 hit in 4 innings of pitching for the Giants. Eric Samanas and Ryan Harvey smacked 3 hits apiece while teammates Nick Samanas and Donzalski each had 2 hits.

Giants 7, Dodgers 5

David Harding struck out 7 Dodgers to get the victory. Eric Samanas had 2 hits to lead the Giants. For the Dodgers, Mike Clemente had 2 hits and Alex Flack pounded a double.

Reds 7, A's 2

Jake Stryjowski had 3 hits, including a double, and struck out 4 A's in 2 innings of pitching. Ryan Bloom smacked a triple, double and single while John Parulski had 2 doubles and Brandon Brown belted a homer for the Reds. Mike Rudick and Curt Montz each had a double and a single for the A's.

Cardinals 13, Yankees 7

Matt Straub's 3-run first inning home run propelled the Cardinal offense. Mike Stolarick had a double and a single while Dylan Seeley had a triple and a single for the winners. Teammate Sean Leary added a double. Leary and Seeley combined to strike out 7 Yankees while surrendering just 2 hits. Jake Kovalchik and Steve Fritz each doubled for the Yankees.

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