

# Farmington ace paces OCC to regional golf championship

By RON GARBINSKI

Oakland Community College's varsity golf team kept a tradition alive this season. For the fifth time in six years, the team won the Region XII golf tournament, qualifying them for the national championships last week in Galveston, Texas.

Pacing the golfers to a 12th place finish in this national event were sophomore John Morgan of Southfield and John Van Vleck of Farmington Hills.

John Morgan was one of the finest golfers OCC has ever had, said Tim Ryan, golf coach and athletic director of all Oakland Community College teams.

At the end of the season, he moved up into the college's list of all-time top 10 golfers. He led the team with a 78.7 average for 19 matches and that placed him right at the top of our competition.

He also captured the lowest score in the regional meet, receiving a medal for his 147, 36-hole tally.

Morgan, a graduate of Southfield High School, was chosen for the all-conference and all-state community college golf teams.

TRAILING MORGAN by only a one stroke average at 77.6 was Van Vleck, a graduate of Harrison High School in Farmington Hills.

He finished his varsity eligibility at OCC by capturing all-conference and all-state honors.

Van Vleck now ranks among the top 20 golfers in the school's history. Ryan con-



COACH TIM RYAN

tinued: "He came on strong at the end of the year, placing second in the state tournament. His season average was only one stroke behind our top man and he placed third on the team. So you can see we had a great team this year."

Tying for second place honors on the team at the end of the season were Mike Aneedy, a sophomore who graduated from Royal Oak Shrine High, and freshman Jim Linklater, a product of Birmingham Groves High.

They tied with a 77.2 18-hole season average.

Ron Larson, a freshman from Shrine High, finished the season as the team's fifth man at 79.6.

The golfers' quest to win the Region XII tournament began early last fall when Ryan held try-outs for the eight positions open on the traveling squad.

"I had four players from last year's team that I knew I could count on for sure this season," Ryan explained. "We kept rotating the fifth man all season long until it came time for the finals. Then we had a playoff to see who would round out the team at five."

ACTUALLY, there were eight golfers on the OCC squad, but only five played in the conference, state, regional and national tournaments.

The remaining three players were Mike Petroff of Troy with a 79.2 average, sophomore Tom Bradley, a Harrison High graduate, at 80.4 and Dave Breeden, a former Groves High golfer, with a 79.8 average.

This was only the second season the team competed as an all-college squad. Prior to 1975, each of OCC's six campuses had its own team.

They participated in the eastern Michigan community college conference along with Schoharie, Monroe, Washtenaw and Henry Ford Community Colleges.

The team set as their goal winning the

regional meet, which included golfers from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and West Virginia. The players got off to a tremendous start and kept right on winning, finishing the season with a 21-1-1 mark, the golf coach added.

After an early spring playing trip to Arkansas, the team returned ready to continue their dream of capturing the regional title.

In their first match, the team set an all-time low for an OCC golf squad by scoring a 287 against Monroe Community College. The previous record low was 289.

"After that, we kept winning," Ryan said. "Then we captured the conference title, placing first in all three meets against the four other schools."

THE SQUAD placed fourth in the Auto City Tournament in Flint, fifth in the Muskegon Community College Tournament and then went on to compete in the state tournament in which they finished second only one stroke behind Mitt of Flint.

"When you lose by one stroke, you look back and know where you made the mistakes that just possibly might have won the match," the coach added.

"But that didn't get the guys down. They wanted the regional. The funny thing about it is that this is the fifth year that we have won the regional, but during that time we have only won the state title once."

"I guess the reason for that is because if you lose in the regional, you were knocked out of the nationals and we wanted to keep our tradition going," Ryan explained.

OCC won the regional meet by 16 strokes, an average of 75 per team member.

At the nationals, they competed against 210 top-rated golfers. After the first 36-hole round, OCC was 18th. They dropped to a 12th place finish after 72 holes with a 1,269 team total.

"An unusual thing about our team was that we were the only school there that doesn't offer its players a scholarship," Ryan concluded. "We don't give any financial aid at all. Players come to our school because they know we have maintained a good golf tradition."



John Van Vleck of Farmington Hills paced the Oakland Community College varsity golf team to its fifth regional title in six years as he received all-state and all-conference honors with a 77.6 average. (Staff photo by Harry Maute)

## Local club hosts tournament

# Top-ranked players clash

By RON GARBINSKI

A field of top-rated tennis players from around the Midwest will put a hat of local talent to round out the competition this weekend in the Shelby-Sher-Detroit Tennis Club Invitational Tennis Tournament in Farmington Hills.

Play begins Thursday afternoon at 4:30 on the outdoor clay courts at the Detroit Tennis and Squash Club (3101) Drake in Farmington Hills.

Tournament finals are slated to begin at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Men's singles competition will highlight the five-day event with the winner collecting \$500 in prize money.

Along with the men's single play, there will be a women's singles, a 32-and-over and a men's 45-and-over division.

Dale Ogden, a three-time college all-American from Texas, is the player to watch in the invitational, said tournament director Chuck Karabell.

Dale is our first seed for the men's single division, Karabell explained. He's a great player and has finished college to be the one to watch.

John Hamline of Troy is seeded second. He was runner-up last year and has never at tournament won his belt.

Hamline is the tennis pro at the Farmington Harquet Club.

RUDY HERNANDEZ of Hamtramck is seeded third for the tournament. He is a two-time winner of the Detroit Invitational and is the tennis pro at the Dearborn Indoor Tennis Club.

Fourth seed is Brian Marace, a St. Clair Shores resident and pro at the Wembley Harquet Club in Groves Pointe Shores. He also has won the Detroit tournament.

Another newcomer to the invitational is

Erck Lakenski, an 18-year-old nationally rated player.

He is rated 10th in the United States and is the top 18-and-under player in the midwest.

"He'll definitely be a factor in the competition," said the tournament director. "He's never played in our event before, but he is so good he could go all the way."

We'll just have to wait and see how he does against the opponents he draws from our men's field of 48 players.

First round elimination is scheduled to continue Friday at 4:30 p.m. until dark and all day Saturday. Semi-finals in all divisions start at 10 a.m. Sunday with the men's finals beginning at 4 p.m.

The men's 45-and-over singles event is mainly a local event with players coming from the Farmington, Southfield, Birmingham and surrounding areas.

Leonard Brown of Southfield, the defending 45-and-over champion, is seeded first in this division. He is ranked first in the midwest and 11th nationally.

CLEM HOPP is seeded second. Hopp, a West Bloomfield resident, is ranked second in southeastern Michigan and third in the midwest.

Bill Mitchell, a newcomer to the invitational, is seeded third and Orchard Lake's Morris Rosenbaum is seeded fourth.

Rosenbaum is a local favorite and scored several upsets in last year's competition that placed him in the top finishers.

Thirty-seven players are entered in the men's 45-and-over event with quarter-finals in the division beginning at 4 p.m. Saturday.

The women's division play is composed

of mostly top-rated junior players.

Kathy Kireksten, a 16-year-old from Groves Pointe Woods, is the top seed. She is rated 15th among two women players in southeastern Michigan.

An 11-year-old Groves Pointe Shores girl is seeded second. Susan Macarain holds the sixth ranking for under 12 girls in the country.

Pam Bacon of Bloomfield Hills is seeded third. Her most recent tournament victory was at the Clinton Valley Invitational meet.

Nineteen entrants round out the women's division as players from all over the area will compete for \$100 in top prize money with \$50 going to the runner-up.

IN THE MEN'S 35-and-over division 29 players will compete.

The top ranked player in the midwest in this division, Dave Dickerson, is seeded first for the tournament. He also holds the 11th ranking nationally in the same bracket.

Defending men's 35-and-over champion, Joe Bachmann from Ohio, is seeded second. Dan Kennedy of Illinois is seeded third and is ranked second in the midwest bracket.

Karabell predicts a large turnout for the weekend tennis invitational. If it rains, he said all play will be scheduled for the indoor courts.

The Jean and Jerry Hoke Award will be presented Sunday afternoon before the men's finals by the Southeastern Michigan Tennis Association.

This award is presented to the top boy and girl tennis player in the 18-and-under bracket.

This year's winners are Jack Kappers of Bloomfield Hills and Debbie Macarain of Groves Pointe Shores.

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## SPORTS

Inside / Classified Ads

Thursday, June 17, 1976

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## WSU slugger named captain

Mary Lou Hurty, a graduate of Farmington, Our Lady of Mercy High, was named co-captain of Wayne State University's 1976 women's softball team in a post-season announcement by coach Mike Lind.

Hurty, a catcher-outfielder, is the 1975-76 Tarter athlete to captain more than one team, having captained WSU's women's tennis team last fall.

Wayne's softball team finished with a 15-9 overall record.

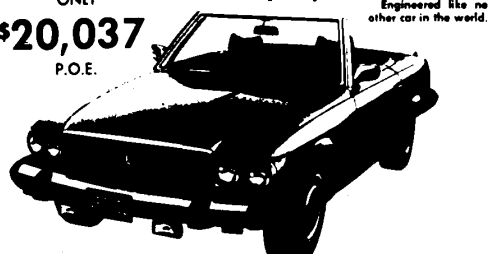
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## ZOOM

# Racer thrives on deadly pace

By ERIC PETERS

My best fans are my wife and kids," says Farmington Hills resident Paul Prill who recently raced his Lotus Super Seven at Waterford Hills Race Track.

President of the Detroit region of the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA), Prill has been racing cars as a hobby for nine years. It is expensive and time-consuming, costing about \$2,000 a year, which he pays for out of his Army Reserve earnings.

Each race is a family outing, with wife Pat and the children, a boy three and girl six, coming to the track in a van where they can be together to watch the races.

When racing outside Detroit, Prill says they make it a camping trip. Pat also helps with the car if Paul's mechanic is not available.

It's the most gratifying thing I've ever

done," he says, "and it's doubly gratifying because I prepare my own car."

His British-made Lotus is a 14-year-old Class D production model weighing between 900-1,000 pounds. In light that he uses only five pounds of pressure in the wide, gummy, slick tires. The long tube-like race car is powered by a 16-cylinder, four-cylinder engine, a 1987 pushrod type from a Ford Cortina.

WATERFORD HILLS is where Prill does most of his racing and more often than not, he wins. With no prize money — apart from the fact he has taken first place in 16 of 20 contests last season with two second places and two no finishes.

One of those no finishes came in the rain when he spun off the track and hit a culvert, tearing off half the rear suspension. Nevertheless, safety is the main emphasis and Prill contends that he feels safer driv-

ing on the track than he does on the everyday highway.

Prill has also raced at Grattan in Grand Rapids, Black Hawk Farms in Wisconsin and the Midland Track.

Racing requires constant preparation and follow-up, says Prill. He must spend a little more and "do a right the first time" before the season begins rather than to tinker with the car all year long.

In addition to major repairs, he checks tires, suspension, components, all parts for metal fatigue and breaks. "If something breaks, you don't finish the race," he says.

Prill is an advertising and sales promotion manager for American Motors Corporation (AMC), International Division. With his travel schedule, home and lawn responsibilities, work on the car in winter, racing and SCCA meetings in summer, he is busy.

RECENTLY returned from a business trip to South Africa, the trip set back his spring preparation phase leaving him only two weeks before the first race. He had to stay up until the early hours every night in order to be ready.

This year is even more hectic than usual. He is racing two cars, the Lotus and a company-sponsored Rover. Jumping out of one car and into another for back-to-back races "is like a Chinese fire drill," according to Prill. It was only his second time out with two cars and he wasn't used to the increased pace.

Wife Pat and mechanic Fred Buynski, an Army Reserve buddy, help considerably in backup capacities. Besides, says Prill, "After a while, you get to know all the nut and bolt sizes without even looking at them."

Annual training for the racing season is another aspect to be dealt with as in any sport. Prill tires mainly to rid himself of his "winter weight" by doing sit-ups and push-ups. This year, after the first week-end of six races, he says, "To be honest, I felt like I had driven to Chicago and back" — nonstop.

DRIVING attitude centers mainly on con-

(Continued on page 10)



Gearing up for a race includes wearing safety regulation clothing: fire-retardant underwear, suit, mask, gloves and helmet. (Staff photo)