

Franklin Hills' assistant heads for US Open

By DAVID SAUNDERS

Bud Whitten compares the U.S. Open to the Rose Bowl, and he'll get a shot at the Open this week.

Whitten, the 30-year-old assistant pro at Franklin Hills Country Club, led 19 golfers in the U.S. Open Sectional Qualifying at Barton Hills Country Club with a 69-7-146.

He'll get his first shot at the U.S. Open, in Tulsa, Okla. at the Southern Hills Country Club course. He left for there Monday.

"There's not any tournament bigger

than the U.S. Open," said Whitten. "It's almost like the Rose Bowl, that's what it means to me."

Whitten pulled out his putter and it did what it was supposed to do at the qualifying round, one putt. He one-upped 12-13 greens last Tuesday during his 36 holes, including seven one-putt greens on the first nine.

"Putting was by far the best part of my game, it was outstanding," said Whitten, a three-year resident of Northville. "I was hitting the ball bad, but it's nice to come out respectable."

WHITTEN IS in his first year as an assistant pro at Franklin Hills Country Club. Before that he was at Meadowbrook Country Club for two years.

"I like it here fine," he said. "Enough to live here. I'd like to have my next few years here."

"We're lucky we don't have to spend our winters here, though."

"But Franklin Hills is one of the better courses in the area I've played," said the Florida-born Whitten. "I feel lucky to play it. It's super."

Whitten is from Pensacola, Fla., originally, and attended the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. His schooling was interrupted by three years of military service.

After the service he went back to school and graduated in 1972. Then he turned pro and went to Perdido Bay Inn and Country Club in Pensacola.

From 1973-74 he went on mini-tours for 18 months, traveling through Florida, New Mexico and Arizona. He won only one mini-tour in his eight months and that was in Tampa.

Mini-tours are satellite tournaments, and are not PGA related. After the tour he went to the PGA

qualifying school for two weeks, where he qualified for any PGA tour, that's if he qualifies. Qualifying school is for anyone who aspires to go on PGA tours.

He got his chance Tuesday, for the big one.

The odds aren't in his favor, but it's been done before, said Whitten, who's a good friend of last year's Open champ, Jerry Pate.

"We lived in the same town, and played together," said Whitten. "He's younger than me, and grew up with my younger brother. But we played in some tournaments together."

Now another Pensacola man has another shot at the Open, like Pate did.

Jerry's a lot different now that he won the Open," he said, "he's getting the press coverage he deserves."

THE FIRST CHANCE player is a likable guy, he's easy to get along with and mends his own business. He also does his job.

"You have to be cocky though to win, and that's what it takes sometimes to win," he said. "But I'm not going to go on the course cocky. I'm just going to hit my shots and hope they go."

"You have to respect the course because the rough will be tough, and the greens will be fast."

"The Open is one of the toughest courses in the world and it's played under the toughest circumstances, the course is always the winner and yet, not the winner."

He'll know how far he can go, after the first cut.

Mercy girls surprise of season

By DAVID SAUNDERS

Farmington Our Lady of Mercy won the distinction of being the only softball team in the C & E area to win their district champion.

The group of girls, re-assembled after last year's middle of the pack finish, played for the regional championship against Bishop Borgess Saturday.

Borgess and Mercy met on three other occasions this year. Borgess won the first and third games. The first game, played just after spring break, Borgess jumped on Mercy for 12 runs in the first inning as they downed Mercy, 13-2. Mercy bounced back in the second game to defeat Borgess, 9-8.

They were tied for the Catholic League West Division title with 121 records, but Borgess blanked Mercy in

the play-offs, 3-0, to capture the title.

"Cinderella" is a term that could apply to the Mercy team since they went 15-2 while using a lot of inexperienced players.

"We weren't considered a power at the beginning of the year, because we finished third or fourth last year," said Mercy coach Linda Barber. "But our team is a lot different than last year."

The infield has only one starter returning this year, and two of the outfielders remained intact. The pitching staff is new, and the catcher played up last year.

THE DEFENSIVE changes have proven to be an asset, and Barber considers it one of the teams strong points.

"Probably our major thing is de-

fense," said Barber. "Our hitting has been alright, but we keep totem from scoring a lot."

"The pitching has been shaky, and that makes the defense work a lot harder. They don't throw many strikeouts."

Our Lady of Mercy started sophomore pitcher, Gretchen Larges, against Borgess Saturday. Larges moved up from JV shortly before the play-off game with Borgess. She's considered a consistent pitcher, fields better and throws the ball faster than any of the other starters.

But Barber won't be afraid to bring in freshman relief pitcher Margie Kueber.

"She doesn't mind the pressure, but if she walks a couple it bothers her," said Barber. "When she comes in to pitch she doesn't worry about the runners on base."

"If she gets the batters swinging she's fine," adds Barber on her young reliever. "She's usually pretty good at getting the ball over the plate, and she has the fastest pitch on the staff."

THE SOPHOMORE and junior laden team plays their infield in average depth. Their outfield doesn't play very deep so they can cut off singles easier, unless they know there is a long ball hitting up to bat.

"Our speed is fairly good," said Barber. "Our players back each other up good. They've been together this year and some of last year, and they're getting to know each other pretty good."

Leading Mercy's team in batting is Diane Dietz. The junior leftfielder has a .450 average and leads the club with 24 runs-batted-in.

Suzanne Brown, a junior third baseman is second on the club with a .391 average, and K.D. Harte has a .375 average.

Mercy won their three district games by beating Walled Lake Westerm, 6-0, in the pre-districts, whipping Milford 19-2 in the second game, and captured the district title by downing Walled Lake Central, 10-5.

"Our first goal is to win the game," adds Barber. "But the kids should enjoy the game and play fairly. I don't like poor sportsmanship."

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING-CHANGE IN DATE

City of Detroit-The Public Hearing previously scheduled on Wednesday, June 22, 1977 has been rescheduled to Thursday, June 30, 1977 at 1:30 p.m. Place of the Hearing will be the City of Detroit Auditorium, 13th Floor, City-County Building, 2 Woodward Avenue, corner of E. Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan 48226. Notice of this Hearing was originally posted on May 22, 1977. This Public Hearing concerns the Overview Plan with Environmental Assessment covering the facilities plan for wastewater collection, treatment and disposal in Detroit with an Overview Plan for the suburban areas served by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The Overview Plan comprises a master facilities plan through the year 2000 and essentially sets forth the recommended solution to the current problem of wastewater treatment confronting the City of Detroit and the schedule for implementing improvements over the next twenty years to assure continued regional service by Detroit to its Detroit Suburban areas for wastewater disposal. Copies of the Draft Report for the Overview Plan with Environmental Assessment will be available for review at Detroit Public Libraries and County Libraries by June 14, 1977. Distribution will also be made to Governmental Agencies within the Overview Planning Area. Information on the Plan can be obtained after June 13, 1977 at the offices of Giffels/Black & Veach, 243 W. Congress, Detroit, Michigan 48226 and at the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department, Room 707, Water Board Building, 735 Randolph, Detroit, Michigan 48226. An Executive Summary of the Draft Report will be available at that time.

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Sauer signs

Golfer Bob Sauer, who captured all-State honors in Michigan, has signed a National Letter of Intent to attend Western Michigan University according to coach Merle Schlosser.

Sauer attended Bloomfield Hills Andover High where he performed on a team that won the Tri-State meet against golfers from Ohio and Pennsylvania. He earned All-Oakland

County and All-Detroit Metro honors, won the Michigan Junior District Match Play and Oakland Press tournaments, and then qualified for three rounds of competition at the U.S.S. Junior affair in Evergreen, Colorado.

Sauer fired a 68 for his Oakland Press tournament victory, was Andover's No. 1 player as a junior and senior and earned three letters with the school's hockey squad.

Strasser gets BA degree

Gregory Strasser, a former Farmington Hills resident, has earned a BA degree at Florida Atlantic University, an upper division and graduate university in Boca Raton, Fla.

He attended Farmington High School and Oakland Community College.

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