

Little League playoff

Alpena stops NF-WB in state tournament

By TOM BAER

The North Farmington West Bloomfield Nationals didn't last long in the Little League state tournament held last week in Alpena, but manager Brian Ruud's NF-WB team can look back on an excellent performance in the post-season tournaments.

Ruud's squad, an all-star team of 11 and 12-year-olds from the North Farmington West Bloomfield National League, had qualified for the state finals by winning district and sectional tournaments earlier this month.

But at the state finals, host Alpena Huron Shores blanked the Nationals 10 in the opening game on Aug. 12. The Alpena team went on to win the state tournament.

"We had an excellent season," said Ruud, who managed NF-WB to a 50 win-loss record in district and sectional play. "Naturally, everybody's out there was disappointed that we couldn't advance in the tournament. But most of our kids stayed up there through all the games and the awards banquet."

"Our kids had a very good time at that tournament. You know kids. They forget about losing in a hurry."

The Alpena NF-WB contest was a funny game. In Ruud's words, Alpena took a 1-0 lead on Jeff Brown's solo homer in the second inning. The game was interrupted for about an hour and a half after three innings because of a rainstorm. The rain stopped and the team played two more innings before the game was halted because of darkness.

ALPENA PITCHING was Base Isley didn't seem to mind the delay, or the dark. A left-hander, Isley allowed NF-WB just two hits — fourth-inning singles by Bill Peterson and Martin Gorek. He worked the entire five-inning game, striking out five and walking one.

Isley earned his pitching talents in other tournament games. He didn't allow a

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run in 11 innings of work last weekend.

He was just a good left-handed pitcher, Ruud said. He had a good curve and a good fastball, maybe the best I saw in the entire tournament. And his team played well behind him. We did hit the ball, but always right at someone.

Alpena collected four hits off two NF-WB pitchers, starter Kevin Shaw and Dan Sklar. Ruud halted the game shortly after Brown's homer gave Alpena the lead. After the delay, Alpena erupted for two runs on three hits in the bottom of the fourth inning.

With one out, Joe Woda singled and advanced to third base when Derek Isaki doubled. The next batter popped out to the pitcher, but then Greg Ferguson singled, knocking in both runners.

Then we had that rain delay for an hour and a half, and he (Sklar) just didn't have it when we started playing again, Ruud said.

Alpena won two more games in the state tournament. Following its victory over NF-WB, Alpena blanked Womung Pines Park 3-0 on Scott Ferguson's homer. In the championship game, Alpena stopped Jackson 4-2.

In winning the state tournament, Alpena advanced to the regional tournament this week in Kalamazoo. Alpena was to play the Indiana state champion. The winner of the Kalamazoo tournament will play the Ohio state champion at the next week. The winner of the Dayton tournament will play in the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa. Later this month.

The North Farmington West Bloomfield players were quartered in private homes during the Alpena tournament.



Chip Greer takes infield practice before his North Farmington West Bloomfield Little League baseball team left for the state tournament last week in Alpena. NF-WB, managed by Brian Ruud, looked good in the post-season tournaments, but lost to host Alpena Huron Shores, 3-0, in the opening game.



Kevin Shaw, one of NF-WB's best pitchers gets in some last-minute practice before leaving for the Little League state finals in Alpena last week. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

S. Farmington girls win tourney

The Watsons, an all-star girls' softball team from the South Farmington Junior League, had little trouble winning the second annual North Farmington Girls' Softball Tournament Aug. 12-14.

South Farmington, managed by Andy Stewart, won five straight tournament games, including a 16-6 victory over Watford Lake in the championship game. We had an excellent tournament team, Stewart said. They were confident and focused. We were behind by a couple of runs in a couple of those games, but we always managed to catch up.

We had some pretty good hitters, Stewart continued. The kids got the ball out of the infield, and that's what counts. Our pitching held up pretty well, too.

South Farmington collected 19 hits in the championship game against Watford Lake. The winners scored five runs in the first inning, added five more in the second, and put it out of reach with five runs in the fifth.

South Farmington's Linda Bache drove in three runs with a triple and a double. Teammate Wendy Decker knocked in two runs with three singles. Shelby Scott, the

winning pitcher, also helped her team at the plate with four singles and three runs batted in. As a pitcher, she worked the entire seven-inning game, allowing only six hits, striking out nine and walking none.

Still was the winning pitcher in South Farmington's 10-6 victory over Midland in the semifinals. She gave up five hits, struck out nine and walked one. Shelby has excellent control and she's a very good fielder, Stewart said. A pitcher needs to be a good fielder in softball.

South Farmington had 14 hits against Midland. Marilyn Givette paced the winners with a pair of homers and four runs

batted in. Earlier, South Farmington bested Northville 11-2. Wendy Decker was the winning pitcher. South Farmington won't play Northville 10.

South Farmington opened the tournament with two victories over cross-town rivals Farmington.

Marilyn Givette was an individual stand-out, winning three tournament trophies. Givette, 16, is a centerfielder and won Home Run Trophies 13 homers during the tournament. The Most Valuable Player award and the Most Congenial award

Accuracy could be the key to winning O&E tournament

By BOB FUNKE

Whispering Willows Golf Course will be the venue for the 1976 O&E tournament, the eighth annual Observer & Eccentric Open Golf Tournament.

Judging from scores recorded in competition last year, a pretty stiff challenge.

Barry Wall topped the championship fight in 1975 with an actual total of 147 for the two-day tournament—five strokes over par. Winners of the other three flights produced even higher scores.

Whispering Willows is not a lengthy course, said Gary Whitener, club pro and tournament director. The premium is not on length but on accuracy, and the ability to use all the clubs in the bag—ones off the tee and the three woods on the fair way.

The course, owned and maintained by the City of Livonia, plays to par 71 at 6,260 yards. It is at Eight Mile and Newburgh roads.

The holes on the course are as varied as the clubs in your bag. Some fairways are wide open and others are narrow. Water comes into play on several holes. Accuracy is generally preferred to distance.

Golfers should not be deceived as to the apparent ease of the course. The first hole—a 160-yard par five with a wide fairway and an inviting, expansive green

that just is merely a confidence builder for those who get extremely shaky at the second hole.

A narrow, short hole—a treacherous 147 yards downhill to the pin. The fairway is approximately 30 yards wide, with nothing but trouble for a distance hitter with a tight hook or slice.

The same situation exists on number 11, which runs parallel to the second hole. Golfers are further confounded on the 11th by a pond three-quarters of the way from the tee in the green on the 180-yard test.

Whitener described the 11th as the most difficult par four on the course. It's a pretty hole, but so tough. Both men and women have played it.

Competitors will not have a chance for a breather on the 12th, the longest par four on the course at 433 yards. Whitener said that the 12th is the toughest section of the course.

The 13th, a 265-yard par three, is an uphill test with a narrow fairway, a large tree to the left of the green and traps both to the right and the left of the putting surface.

Club selection always crucial, may be difficult, especially if the wind is blowing toward the tee. Whitener said that 14 is the most challenging par three on the course.

Golfers will face other tricky holes—a green built like a mound on 13, a fairway that narrows to a creek in funnel-like fashion on 18 and a 485-yard tender with fairway bunkers on seven.

Whispering Willows is not only the kind of course on which it is easy for the novice to get in trouble early and blunder most of the round.

It is also the type on which a fairly steady player can lose strokes little by little to par them under and happen at the end.

In addition to the toughest, when make up most of the course, there are several holes in which pars and birdies are distinct possibilities.

The first hole is a good example and to top are right, a 170-yard par three and 16 holes in which pars and birdies are distinct possibilities.

Plans for the Women's O&E Golf Tournament have been finalized. The girls will tee off Sept. 18 and complete 18 holes of medal play. As in the men's division, the women's will be organized into flights and prizes and trophies will be awarded.

The men will play 36 holes Sept. 13-12. The men will play 36 holes Sept. 13-12. The men will play 36 holes Sept. 13-12.

Entries may be made to Tournament Director Gary Whitener, Whispering Willows Golf Course, 20890 Newburgh Livonia.

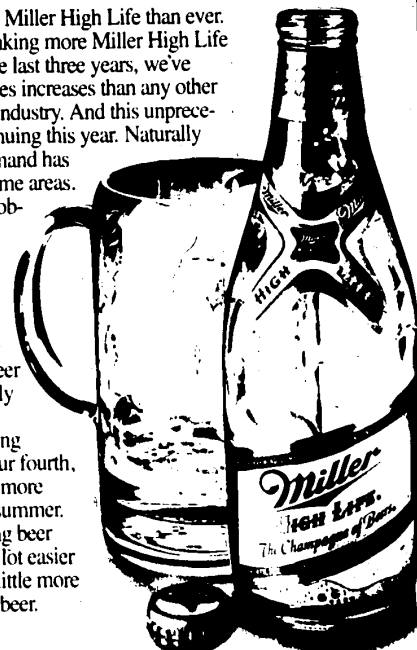
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Team takes doubles

Steve Pruter of Plymouth and his partner, Detroit's Kathy Milsarski, outplayed a 24 team field over the weekend to take the championship of an open mixed doubles tournament sponsored by Schoolcraft College.

RESULTS

Quarterfinals
Dean Snyder (Farmington) and Janice Martin (Livonia) defeated Richard and Evelyn Schaefer (Dearborn), 6-2 and 7-6. Mary Lee (Bloomfield) and Phyllis Nelson (Livonia) defeated Jack Kingsbury (Detroit) and Lynne Rorer (Philadelphia), 7-4 and 7-3. Steve Pruter (Plymouth) and Kathy Milsarski (Detroit) defeated Pat Page (Livonia) and Kathy Ladd (Livonia), 6-2 and 6-4. Joe Toth (Livonia) and Kaye Fiered (Dearborn) defeated Scott Hubbard (Farmington Hills) and E. J. Jovan (Farmington Hills), 6-0 and 4-1.

Semifinals
Lakin and Nelson defeated Snyder and Martin, 7-5 and 7-6. Pruter and Milsarski defeated Toth and Fiered, 6-1 and 6-0.

Finals
Pruter and Milsarski defeated Lakin and Nelson, 6-3 and 6-4.

Men's, Women's Open Golf Tournaments

Sponsored by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Whispering Willows Municipal Golf Course

MEN'S 36 holes medal play, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 11 and 12. Entry fee: \$22 (greens fees, trophies and prizes).	
WOMEN'S 18 holes medal play, Thursday, Sept. 16. Entry fee: \$8 (greens fees and trophies). Make checks payable to Gary Whitener, Tournament Director and enclose with entry blank.	
NAME	
ADDRESS	
PHONE	HANDICAP
Men's entries close Wednesday, Sept. 8 at 6 p.m. Call for starting times on Friday, Sept. 10 at 10 a.m. Women's entries close Monday, Sept. 13 at 5 p.m. Call for starting times Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 10 a.m.	
Open to all residents of Livonia, Plymouth, Canton, Garden City, Westland, Redford Township, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Birmingham, West Bloomfield, Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills, Troy, Rochester and Avon Townships.	
Entries may be made to Tournament Director Gary Whitener, Whispering Willows Golf Course, 20890 Newburgh Livonia.	