

Weather can't dampen celebrity golf outing

By MARTY BUDNER

There was a true gauge which tested celebrity sincerity at the annual St. Jude Golf Classic in Rochester Monday afternoon. It was the weather.

The tournament was greeted by a bothersome early-morning drizzle. As the day progressed, the rains gave way to a chilly, overcast sky which occasionally burst into sunlight.

But, despite uncomfortable temperatures, 52 of the 53 celebrity golfers were on hand to swing clubs for the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. Tournament organizer Ken Janke of Bloomfield Hills, and director John McKinnon of Oakland Township said most of the celebrity golfers and their playing partners are normally very dependable.

The winners for the LPGA members

were Mary Dwyer and Debbie Austin. The first place celebrity winner was Al Weygant.

Carl Patron, from the Birmingham Country Club, took first in the Michigan PGA section. His group had the low score of the day with a 58. John Traub of Rochester's Great Oaks Country finished second in the PGA section.

Last year the St. Jude Classic raised \$12,000. Janke said that, since its inception in 1972, the tourney has raised somewhere in the vicinity of \$186,000.

St. Jude's Hospital, which recently marked its 14th anniversary, is the largest children's cancer research center in the world. It is devoted to the medical care of children — mostly free of charge upon physician referral — with catastrophic diseases.

Entertainer Danny Thomas, who made a brief appearance at Great Oaks

two summers ago, is the guiding light behind the Hospital's continuation.

As always, players and celebrities alike are thrilled with participating in an event with such a "worthwhile" cause.

There are 52 fivesomes (four players and a celebrity) who play 18 holes. Guests who play with the women pros pay \$350 for that privilege, while all other guests pay \$175 each.

AMONG THE celebrities for the seventh annual affair included retired Detroit sports heroes Al Kaline of the Tigers and Lem Barney of the Lions. Current players who took off included Jim Rutherford (Red Wings) and Gary Danielson (Lions).

For the first time ever, the Detroit Express soccer team was represented.

Captain Sam Oates was the first Express player to tee off, followed by teammate Keny Furphy and, finally, the coach, Ken Furphy.

Highlighting the celebrity golf list was 13 representatives of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA).

The contingent was led by Debbie Massey and Debbie Austin, a pair of golfers who tied for sixth place in Dearborn over the weekend at the Lady Stroh's LPGA tournament. Bob won \$4,050 for four-round scores of 288.

Other LPGA players included Canadian Dale Shaw, Clarkston's Cindy Chamberlain, Australian Margie Masters, a two-time LPGA winner, Mary Dwyer, Connie Callami, Susan O'Connor, Jerilyn Britz, Bonnie Lauer and Kathy Ahern. Former LPGA regular Jill Endicott was also in attendance.

Local television personalities includ-

ed Bob "Bowling for Dollars" Allison, Joe "Detroit News columnist" Falls, and Bill "Channel 7" Bonds. Marc Avery, the honorary chairman, was the first to tee off in the "Best Ball" tournament.

Some of the Michigan Section-Professional Golf Association members in attendance included John Traub and Jim Dewling from Great Oaks, Al Men-

ger from Oakland Hills, which is hosting the United States PGA championship later this month, and Ben Davis from the Rackham Golf Course.

Others were Bill Rogers of the Katke-Cousins Golf Course on the Oakland University campus, Carl Patron from the Birmingham Country Club, and Tom Deaton, from the Franklin Hills Country Club.

Pro stars glitter at Great Oaks

By MARTY BUDNER

The St. Jude Celebrity Golf Classic in Rochester always attracts some of the Detroit area's most popular personalities.

Al Kaline, Lem Barney and Jim Rutherford are annual participants.

In recent years, however, the tournament field has expanded to include Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) members. This year there were 13 representatives — the most ever to participate in a St. Jude tournament.

Three members of the Detroit Express soccer team were also represented for the very first time.

Following is a brief look at three of the tournament's top personalities.

DEBBIE AUSTIN

Debbie Austin was the LPGA's Player of the Year in 1977. She won five tournaments overall that year, and has now won twice since then.

Now in her 11th year on the tour, Austin completed the Lady Stroh's Tournament (held over the weekend in Dearborn) in a tie for sixth place. Her score was 288.

Her best round came Thursday when she carded a 69. However, her scores jumped up by two each of the following three days.

"I was satisfied with my play," said Austin, a part-time travel agent who had a first-round lead and made a late challenge on Sunday.

"It was probably the best I've played in a year and a half. I'm just coming off a shoulder injury, and that's basically as good as I've ever played."

"I thought I putted well — I had only a 33 average. But, (Judy) Rankin (who finished second) putted unbelievably well over the weekend. There was only

an 11-putt difference between us.

"Putting is where you have to do it (win matches). Vicki (Ferguson, the eventual champion with a 284) had some terrific rounds, and putted well."

Although the crowds were down at the Lady Stroh's tournament because of the poor weather which waterlogged fairways and greens, Austin believes the LPGA is progressing.

"It (the constant rain) was a big disappointment to all of us," said Austin.

"Last year we had tremendous crowds, and with all the media attention we got, we should have had more super crowds this year."

But I'm just excited about the overall progress the tour has been

making," she said. "The tournaments are getting bigger and better."

GARY DANIELSON

Gary Danielson has added something new since the end of football season — a mustache.

The tall, slender Detroit Lions quarterback, who wears a white, wool pullover sweater with a hockey player stitched across the front, is sporting a new image in more ways than one.

Danielson, who starred on the local scene at Dearborn Divine Child and advanced to an unpretentious college career at Purdue, got his professional break with the Lions last year.

The highlight of last year was the team's morale-building victory over the Minnesota Vikings. That win more than anything else helped spark a renewed interest in the Lion team.

"I'm looking forward to this year," said Danielson. "A lot of people are expecting big things out of us, and are counting on us to improve."

"We feel we have a great team, and were are confidently waiting to start the season. I know I'm looking forward to the challenge of going into the camp as the number one quarterback."

"I think I have a lot of areas to improve on, but I also think I can play well and have a good year," he said. "Hopefully, we'll all have a good year."

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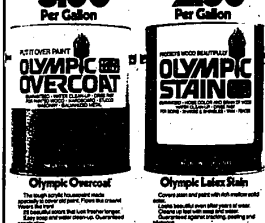
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