

2 area sports pros tie the knot

By M.B. Dillon
Staff writer

Birmingham Country Club assistant golf pro Jeff Roth spent a winter of content that's movie material.

The 23-year-old golfing phenom and Plymouth Salem graduate who recently won the PGA-Veterans' Administration championship with a record-equaling, 11-under-par 57, traveled to Florida to play on last winter's mini-tour.

Roth found some success in golf, but saw his life take a twist he hadn't quite bargained for.

"We met in Florida in November and fell in love right away," said Bloomfield Hills native Patti Jaaski Roth, then a tennis pro working in Ft. Lauderdale. "We began dating every night."

"We got engaged a few days before Valentine's Day," said Jeff, who is working towards PGA Class A pro status, playing at PGA state events on Mondays.

"We decided to move back to Michigan and get married. Patti sold her

house in March after just two days — everything worked out great. It was unbelievable."

EMPLOYMENT-WISE, things also fell into place. Patti, a three-year high school varsity tennis player and 1971 graduate of Bloomfield Hills Andover, looked up her contacts and quickly landed teaching jobs at Great Oaks Country Club and Rochester Hills Racquet Club.

Not that she needed any human resources, Patti's credentials would have sufficed very nicely. The 28-year-old played on the Junior Wightman Cup team when she was 17 and 18 years old, attended the University of Miami on a tennis scholarship where she achieved a No. 7 national ranking, and turned pro after her sophomore year.

Patti earned a degree in business administration and management from Florida International University and last year was ranked No. 1 in doubles and No. 2 in singles in Florida's state rankings.

"Now I want to establish myself in Michigan," said Patti, who's encouraging her husband to establish himself, too.

"She convinced me to try for my tour card this fall," said Jeff, who turned pro two years ago. "I was thinking of waiting till I'm a head pro. But by giving it a go now, I won't look back when I'm 30 and regret not giving it a shot."

But wasting time has always been a non-existent concept as far as Jeff is concerned. "When I was 8 (and growing up in Wauwata, Wis.), some buddies and me would ride our bikes with our clubs over our backs and go play a part-three course before school," he said. "We'd go back and play again after school."

The Roths moved to Farmington and joined Farmington Country Club when Jeff was a seventh-grader. It was about that time that the young golfer decided he was pro material.

"I found I was improving at a pretty good rate," Jeff said, "and that I caught on pretty quickly. It's like anyone else some people are into science, I'm into golf."

Roth played varsity golf and earned



DICK KELLEY/staff photographer

The recently married Roths, Jeff and Patti, are two professionals — he an assistant golf pro at the Birmingham Country Club, she a tennis pro at Rochester Hills.

a real estate degree on an athletic scholarship at the University of Arizona where his coach, 46-year PGA member John Gibson, guided him through a major swing change and helped him become "a better thinker."

Gibson educated me so that I could help myself," said Jeff, who won the junior state amateur championship while in high school. "That's the whole key. Now if I hit a God-awful shot or have a bad day, I can make adjustments right on the course because I know what causes what, instead of just getting frustrated."

"My strength used to be mainly my short game. But the last four or five years, it's my whole overall game — I've improved in iron play, especially."

Roth said he "cashed \$2,800 on the mini-tour. I came in third in a tournament, fourth in a tournament and placed in the top 10 a couple of times."

"I missed qualifying for the Doral by one shot and the Inverary by three strokes," added Roth. "There were 160 players going after only eight spots."

"The competition is pretty stiff in golf. It's almost like running a sprint. You have to go for the gusto."

THOSE WORDS HIT home with this sports-minded couple.

Patti said, "we work long, strange hours, so we try to play as much tennis and golf together as we can."

"We respect each other for being good in our respective areas," Patti said, "and we pull for each other."

"But when we play tennis or golf together, we're not really competitive, we do it for fun. Last night we played 18 holes of golf, and I shot 92. That's the nice part — we enjoy each other's sports and we enjoy being outside. I think that'll help keep us together in spite of our crazy hours."

JEFF HAS a plan that could help alleviate that scheduling problem.

"I told Patti that when I have my own pro shop, I'll build her a tennis shop inside," he said.

"Patti has plans to help Jeff out, too. "When he goes on tour, I'll have to cut back a little on the number of lessons I give," she said. "But I've been playing so much I won't really mind."

"I think he's got the talent and I think we'll be better off if I try to support him while he tries to make it."

He will now represent Michigan in the PGA national tournament for assistant pros in Brockton, Mass.

Top teams set to collide

Continued from Page 2C

A mercy rule ended the nightcap mismatch with two outs in the fifth inning.

Winning pitcher Gordie Hershiser (4-0) threw a four-hitter and struck out six. Brian Marzoff had three hits, a triple and two singles, to pace Troy's 11-hit offense.

Ron Yatacoma doubled and singled to drive in two runs, and Hershiser had two singles and an RBI.

Earlier, Mike McClellan pitched a four-hitter to help Troy-Clawson rap Rochester, 12-6. McClellan struck out nine and walked none.

Scott Dugan drove in four runs with two doubles and a single, and Hershiser homered and doubled to knock in four runs.

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL USE PUBLIC HEARING

RE: Sir Speedy Center
28440 Southfield Rd.

Copy Center Corp.
Lathrup Landing Addition

To Neighboring Property Owners and Occupants:

An application(s) has been received from Sir Speedy Printing Center and Copy Center Corp. for the use of copy and duplicating centers (2) requesting special use approval to occupy and use a portion of buildings located on the 1, east side of Southfield between Wilshire and Redwood (Sir Speedy Printing). 2. in the Lathrup Landing addition on Eleven Mile Rd. at Evergreen (Copy Center). More complete details as to the proposed manner of conducting the business activities, their hours of operation, their occupancy load, and their neighborhood and community impact are available at the office of the City Clerk for public inspection and copying prior to the hearing. City approval of the use requested is required under Section 8.10 and related provisions of Zoning Ordinance No. 18. A public hearing on the special use request may be requested by a property owner or the occupant of a structure located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for a special use by the applicant or by the applicant or by the Building Inspector.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: that at my request on July 14, 1981, commencing at 8:00 p.m. and continuing thereafter until completed, a public hearing will be held before me in the Conference Room of the Municipal Building, 27400 Southfield Road, Lathrup Village to consider all matters bearing upon the request including the views and comments of all parties in interest. All such parties are entitled to attend and participate in person or by representative and written comments will be received concerning the request addressed to the undersigned or by personal delivery at any time up to the conclusion of such public hearing and within a reasonable time thereafter, render a decision to deny, approve or approve with condition.

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