Michigan golf champ not spoiled by success

INNING THE MICHIGAN
Amateur Open brought instant fame and popularity
to Rochester Golf Club

of headlines and accolades go to his head. Nor will his playing partners.

Johnson, after a five-year hiatus from the Charlevolx tournameni, capiured the tilts with a 1-uy victory over Mark Chapleski in the match play format. But other than clipping out the newspaper articles and showing around the Stagborn Trophy, life will go on as

Beechview swim club continues win streak

Farmington Hills Beechview Swim Club continued its winning ways in the Northwest Suburban Swim League last week by dunking Beverly Hills Swim Club 317-243. Beechview is 3-0 in dual

meet competition.

The Tucker sisters, Elizabeth and Catherine, along with teammate Janine Whittemore established new team records for Beechview.

Double-event winners were 'Low State of the Catherine and the Catherine and the Catherine State of the Ca

Catherine, along with teammate Janine Whittemore established new team records for Beechview.

Double-event winners for Beechview were: Joe Abunassar, Scott Farabee, Angle Tomie, Todd Farabee, Wendy Leliand, Lisa Tomie, Wendell Tuker, Month and Changer Tomie, Wendell Tuker, Month and Changer Comies, Warry Quinn, Dennis Sayles, Vince Enright, Sandy Schwedt, Mike Valvona, Mike Wik, Lisa Kelly and Tom Sayles.

Four Beechview combined-age relay teams also took firsts: 40-year girls, Roxanne Bennett, Julie Parabee, Angie Tomie and Elizabeth Tucker, 52-year girls, Catherieo Tucker, Janine Whittemore, Mary Wik and Mary Quinn; the 40-year boys, Greg Genther, Wendell Tucker, Mike Hoeflin and Matt Gessler; and the 52-year boys, Kirk Taylor, Tom Sayles, Joe Abunassar and Chris Hart.

Several outstanding performances by Woodbrooke swimmers could not prevent the team's third straight dual-meet loss, 305-266, to Forest Hills. Mike Tumey set two new records, in the 50-meter freestyle and the 100-meter IM. Woodbrooke got double victories

the 50-meter irecutyie and the inventer IM.
Woodbrooke got double victories from Clady and Marge Gramer, Karrie Kranz, Scott Mayotte, David Beck, Jill Andries and Liz Worthen.
The team also got first-place finishes from Colleon Carey, Carrie Worthen, Jennifer Rowe, Kristin Kranz, Katby Pierog, Chris Lealie and Tumey.
Three combined-age relay teams swam to victory for Woodbrooke: 52-year girls, (Kranz, Sills, Morton and Cramer), 84-year girls, (Silns, Morton and Cramer), 84-year girls, 64-year girls, 64-y

VILLAGE - WOODSIDE

Southfield's Village Vikings lost their first dual meet of the season, 319-253, to the Woodside Athletic Club.

usual for Johnson, who works at a Dearborn refining company and man-ages to play softball twice a week in between countiess rounds on the links. Twe got a great group of friends

ages to play softball twice a week in between counties rounds on the links. "I've got a great group of friends who will not allow me to let it go to my head," Johnson said as be sat in the steakhouse of the Rochester Golf Club. "They'll cut me down to size real quick. Amateur golf is fun and it's nice to win, but you have to realize, winning the Michigan Amateur is not going to pay the rent or the bills. There's other re-sponsibilities in my life that have to be cared for."

WINNING THE tournament means having a piece of the Staghorn Trophy, which stays in the office of the Golf Association of Michigan. He does have a much smaller trophy to serve as a remembrance, but the fact he won the tournament is enough of a keepsake for Johnson.

"I have a trophy of sorts," he said, holding his hands about 10 inches apart, "but more importantly is the prestige and having a place in history

which outwelghs a trophy, trinket or medal. If you win this tournament, you don't care if they give you a cup of coffee and say 'Hit the road.' You've won, and that's all that matters.'
Aithough Johnson is taking all the publicity in stride, there was a time when it all might lawe gone to his head. As a youngster, Johnson envisioned days when he would be a top dog on the not our.

days when he would be a top dog on the pro tour.

Johnson was league medalist while participating on the Royal Oak Kim-ball golf team. After graduation in 1971, he went to Ohio State University to follow in the footsteps of Buckeye grad Jack Nicklaus, no doubt.

"I went there with visions of grandeur," he said with a grin. "I made the team, but I was out of their league."

BECAUSE HIS family could not af-ford the out-of-state tuition, Johnson came home and went to the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College where he golfed for two years. He finished his credits at Eastern Michigan University — where he cap-

rained the golf team in 1975 — and graduated in 1976.

"I alway; though! I was better than I really was." Johnson receiled of his errly days. "The Ohlo State thing was an err-opener for me. I was good, sold Mid-American Conference player — may score counted all the time — but I didn't shoot rounds that would win any tournament."

After Johnson came to the realization that maybe he wasn't in the class of the touring prox, he decided to relearn the game — especially after-a lockey knee Injury made him alter his style.

"I was forced to relearn the game, or I should say learn it more property, he sald." I became more of a player rather than a slugger. Since then, each year I've golten better. I'd say the last three or four years, I've played the way I'm playing now."

A hig change came in March, when Johnson's four-mouth diet reduced his 260-pound frame to 202 pounds.

"AFTER I tore my knee, I became less active and I was gaining 8-10

pounds a year. Pretty soon I was 280, and I made a docision to get rid of it—for health reasons as much as snything else.

"It bothered my game," said the 207-pound champion. "My timing changed—I was swinging faster and I didn't have the same control I was used to."

— 1 was swinging faster and I didn't have the same control I was used to." Previous to the Michigan Amateur, Open, he was not on top of his game. But he is now. He doesn't call it a "Cin-derella Story," just a matter of every-thing failing into place at the right time.

time.

'I hadn't played that good all year, and was working to change things,' he said. There were good circumstances and the right combination of events. I mean, why dion't play this good next he tournament.

'I may have a stretch of incredibly great golf, and there aren't any fournaments around, but if just happened that I was on top of my game during this tournament. You can't put your finger on it. You're happy with it, and you just try to keep it going as long as you can.









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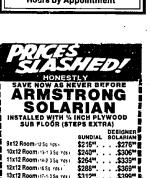
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