

# Whitener picked to head PGA

By C.J. Rieak  
staff writer

From such humble beginnings . . .  
"At age 11, Gary Whitener started a career in golf by caddying at Western Q&P Club in Redford. He's climbed a long ladder since then, but one thing remained consistent: It was always in an upward direction.

Whitener, who now serves as Livonia's director of golf, was recently voted president of the Michigan PGA. For the next two years, he will guide the state's golf program toward what he hopes is a brighter future.

"It's a non-compensation job, but it's fun, it's exciting," said Whitener, a Farmington Hills resident. "It doesn't take up too much of my time because many of our meetings are in the winter. And if everyone knows what their job is, it will be very easy."

THERE are currently 303 members of the state's PGA, with 162 apprentices and 20 non-registered apprentices. Full members are golf pros who have earned 32 credits (one credit is awarded for each month of teaching under a PGA head pro) and completed two required PGA business classes.

Apprentices have at least eight credits and are working toward full membership.

When Whitener was nurturing an interest in golf as a high school student at Livonia Bentley, the game was still considered the domain of the wealthy.

"Not any more," Whitener said. "Twenty-five years ago it was a rich man's sport, but today there are so many golf facilities and people have

so much time off that it's changed. "Here I am, a municipal golf course operator and I'm head of the Michigan PGA."

WHITENER'S CAREER in golf was assured when he won an Evans Scholarship, awarded to caddies on the basis of need and scholastic achievement. That was in 1956. By 1960, Whitener had his bachelor of arts degree in marketing from Michigan State and had set in motion his plans for a life after college.

From 1960 through 1961, he worked for Warren Orlick at Tam O'Shanter Country Club in West Bloomfield. For six years after that, Whitener was an assistant teaching pro at Knollwood Country Club in Franklin.

In 1968, the city of Livonia opened its first golf course, Whispering Willows. They chose Whitener to be director of golf. Whispering Willows opened as a nine-hole course on Memorial Day, 1968, then expanded to 18 the following year. In 1977, the city purchased Idyl Wyld Golf Course and left it in Whitener's charge.

His responsibilities will expand again. By the summer of 1987, the city is planning to open its third 18-hole course, adjacent to Bicentennial Park.

Until then, his Michigan PGA duties will keep him busy enough. He's been an elected member of the executive board of the state's PGA for 10 years, holding offices of treasurer and first vice president, among others.

WHITENER HAS established goals for his two-year term, with the PGA's creed always foremost.

"Our No. 1 goal will always be the

## golf

promotion of golf," he said. "I do have a few major goals. First, I want to increase our educational opportunities to our membership. I want more seminars in the state."

"I want to establish a long range planning commission. I'd like to get all the past Michigan PGA presidents involved in this, to improve our image, increase public awareness, set future objectives."

"I'd also like to increase (job) placement of our golf pros in the state."

According to Whitener, the state's PGA does not currently sponsor any in-state seminars, so any pros interested in certain topics offered by the national PGA must travel to other states. Whitener wants to hold four seminars a year in Michigan, with topics ranging from merchandising to leasing a facility to club repair.

"The educational opportunities, to me, are very important," he said.

Whitener also wants to make certain assistant pros are aware of all openings in the state. "I want to establish more member services, particularly in terms of employment," he explained.

THE PUBLIC'S awareness of the state's PGA is most acute at tournament time. The Michigan PGA sponsors four major events: the Michigan PGA, the Michigan Open, the Michigan Match Play Tournament and the

Michigan Pro-Pro Best Ball tourney. A 36-hole assistant pro's championship is also a Michigan PGA event. Whitener can't help but be optimistic when talking about golf's future, particularly with the emergence of more public courses instead of private clubs. There are problems — he's concerned with what he called "sandbaggers" at pro-am tournaments, amateur golfers whose handicap is much lower than they list.

"The ultimate person responsible is the PGA member who brings these people with him knowing full well that they're lying about their handicap," said Whitener. "What's going to happen is the end of the pro-am."

That's but one of the concerns facing Whitener in the next two years. Others will certainly crop up.



Gary Whitener  
elected state PGA president

# Ocelots win in region

## LADY OCELOTS TIE MSU

Schoolcraft College erupted for five second-half goals to eliminate Hinds County (Miss.) Community College from the NJCAA Inter-regional 8-1 at DuPage College in Chicago Thursday.

Schoolcraft coach Van Dimitriou called Hinds CC a "good team, very physical. This was one of the toughest games we've played."

Forward John Gelmini (from Livonia Stevenson) and defender Scott Steiner (Plymouth Salem) both went out early in the game and did not return.

Matt Pace and Joe Novak (Stevenson) picked up the scoring slack in the absence of Gelmini, the Ocelots leading scorer, by scoring two goals each in the second half.

Schoolcraft's Dan Ortiz got a goal five minutes into the game on an assist from Joe Novak. Gelmini made it 2-0 at the 24-minute mark. Rick Hamers assisting, and Abe Yaffai (Livonia Bentley) hit a drive from 40 yards out for the Ocelots' third goal with five minutes left in the half.

Pace got the first two goals of the second half, with Randy Johnson (Salem) assisting on the first. Novak got the next two, with Hamers assisting on the second. Kevin Sultana (Salem) capped the scoring, with Jeff Neschlich (Salem) assisting.

The win raised Schoolcraft's record to 11-1-1.

In a defensive battle waged at mid-field, Schoolcraft College's women's soccer team fought Michigan State University to a 1-1 tie in its final regular-season game of the season Wednesday at MSU.

The Lady Ocelots, 12-5-5 and headed to the NJCAA tournament at Mercer Community College in Trenton, N.J., Nov. 28-30, capitalized on a mistake by the Spartan goal to strike first. Angie Butterfield fed Lori Nicley (Troy Athens) to make it 1-0.

Schoolcraft frustrated MSU (15-2-3) the entire game until, with just 10 seconds left, Farmington Harrison grad Michelle Wise knotted it.

MSU had a 7-4 shot advantage, but Schoolcraft got exceptional defensive play from goalkeeper Doreen Beagle (Livonia Stevenson), sweeper Julie Nowka, and defenders Sheri Wolfe (Livonia Bentley) and Shannon Bowler (Livonia Bentley).

The Lady Ocelots now have three weeks until nationals, and Schoolcraft Coach Ed Dudek is searching for teams (male or female) that wish to scrimmage indoors. For more information, call the Schoolcraft athletic offices at 591-6400, Ext. 480.

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# North Farmington swimmers rout Salem

This girls swimming score may bring its share of double takes: North Farmington 104, Plymouth Salem 66.

It's not so surprising that North beat Salem Thursday night — North is a good swim team that wins a lot of meets. But the fact that North beat Salem — a good swim team in its own right — by 38 points in the Rocks' pool is a little shocking.

"We got our share of firsts, that's for sure," North coach Pat Duthe said. "But I thought it would be closer than it was. We were fortunate."

The Raiders (9-2) took nine firsts in 11 events.

Marge Cramer, Cindy Cramer and Jennifer Rowe each brought in a pair of firsts.

Rowe won the 200-yard freestyle (2:01.77) and established a Salem pool record in the 500 free with a 5:10.01. Marge Cramer won the 50 freestyle (26.07) and the 100 butterfly (1:03.55). Sister Cindy captured both the 200 individual medley (2:18.88) and the 100 breaststroke (1:10.09).

Liz Worthen won the 100 backstroke (1:09.11). She also swam the first leg of North's winning 400 medley relay teaming with the Cramers and Amy Mentelley on a 2:01.25.

North's other first came in diving as Jennifer Smith turned a 179.45-point performance.

Laura Shaffer won the 100 freestyle for Salem (57.44). She also helped her team win the 400 freestyle relay. She teamed with Kristal Taylor, Karen Dalpe and Tracy Meszaros on a 4:00.51. The Rocks are now 8-3 on the season.

CANTON 111, HARRISON 56: Diana Raddatz and Catherine Tucker won a pair of events each for Farmington Harrison, but it wasn't enough to offset the overall strength of Plymouth Canton Thursday in the Western Lakes

Western Division meet.

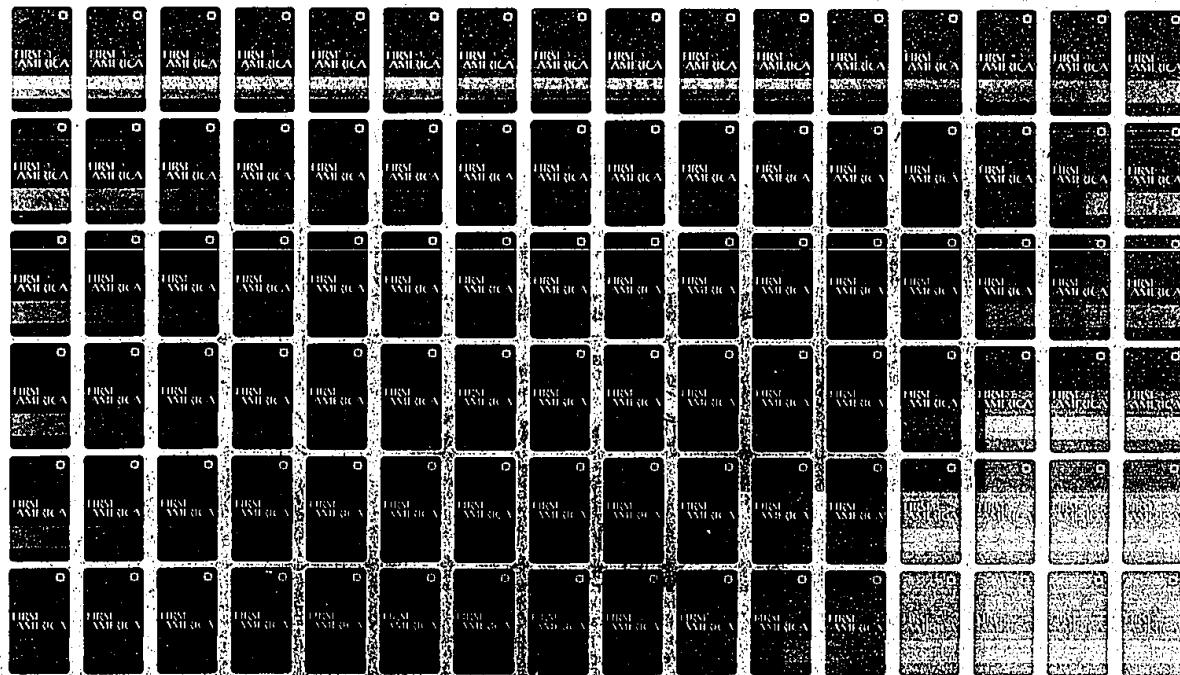
Raddatz won the 200 free (2:07.1) and the 500 free (5:44.2). Tucker took the 50 free (28.1) and 100 free (58.8), edging Canton's Lynn Massey in both races.

Canton, though, won everything else.

Julie Cox won the 200 IM (2:37.1) and the 100 backstroke (1:07.1). Kellie Daily took diving honors (178.5 points), Amy Schmitz won the 100 butterfly (1:13.0) and Jean McLenaghan took the 100 breaststroke (1:10.4).

Canton is 5-3 on the season, Harrison 3-5.

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