

# Prep coaches initiate national junior tourney

By Marty Budner  
staff writer

Art Link and Jim Rademacher, movers and shakers for years on the local junior golf scene, are at it again.

Only this time they've gone national. Link and Rademacher are part of a group who have put together an unprecedented national tournament for junior golfers, which they're calling the World Series of Junior Golf Tour (WSJGT).

The year-long tournament is strictly for junior amateur golfers ranging from freshmen to seniors in high school. Through a series of qualifiers, golfers could ultimately wind up testing their skills against some top-flight competition in kind of a national mini tour.

It's a concept Link, golf coach at West Bloomfield High School, and Rademacher, golf coach at Birmingham Brother Rice High School, find both intriguing and exciting.

The idea is that we're providing a unique experience for junior golfers across the United States," said Link, who has had a long association with the National High School Golf Coaches Association and will serve as National Tournament Director for WSJGT.

Every golfer will get the opportunity to play and, if he performs well, he advances. It's as simple as that. If a golfer gets to the national level he'll get a chance to show his skills and possibly earn some college scholarships.

"The important thing that we're doing is giving every kid a chance to play and qualify for the regional and national levels of competition," he said. "This is a new concept for junior golfers, and we're really excited about it."

RADENACHER SAID the tour will be a good test for junior golfers to learn exactly how strong their games are.

"It gives some excellent opportunities for the young golfers to find out exactly what their potential is," said Rademacher. "It's a chance to prove yourself against some of the best competition around."

"Many states, including ours, don't have too many statewide competitions for juniors," he said. "This is a chance for junior golfers to play at a high level of competition since the tournament will attract some of the best golfers from each state."

Basically, the tournament works like this:

Junior golfers from across the country will participate in their respective 36-hole state tournaments (the Michigan tournament is scheduled for Michigan State University's Forest Akers Golf Course Monday, June 16). Rademacher estimates the top 30 golfers from the

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various state meets will advance to the regional level.

"There will be nine regional mini tours consisting of five tournaments held throughout the summer. The top golfers from each of those regions then qualify for the 'World' tour, which will include seven tournaments to be held from November through July of the following year.

For example, golfers from Michigan who survive the state tournament advance to the five-match regional tour which includes stops in Indianapolis, Ind. (July 10-11), Madison, Wis. (July 28-30), Rockford, Ill. (Aug. 5-6), Kent, Ohio (Aug. 11-12) and Ann Arbor (Aug. 14-15).

Golfers earn points based on their performances with the best scorers qualifying for the national tour. Rademacher estimates that 20 golfers from each of the nine regions will advance to the nationals, which would make it an approximate 180-person national field.

THE SCHEDULED national-tour stops include Tucson, Ariz. (Nov. 1-2), Jacksonville, Fla. (Nov. 29-30), Miami (Jan. 2-4, 1987), Palm Springs, Calif. (Jan. 17-19), Phoenix, Ariz. (Feb. 26-28), Indianapolis (June 29-30) and Hartford, Conn. (July 6-7).

Five of the national tour stops will be held close to, or simultaneously with some kind of professional tour event. All the national stops will be 36 holes. Rademacher estimates the amateur status of the participating junior golfers will not be in jeopardy.

The national tour banquet and award ceremony will be held in Hartford July 7.

"It's new and the kids aren't aware of the opportunity this tour will present," said Rademacher. "After the first year I think it will get nothing but bigger and better."

There is a \$45 entry fee for every event. Rademacher said the WSJGT is hoping to get various travel discount prices from airlines and hotels. He also said any WSJGT participant demonstrating financial need may receive aid in confidentiality.

"We're in the process of trying to attract national sponsors to support elements of the tour," said Rademacher. "Based on sponsorship, we plan to rebate portions of the entry fee."

Any golfer wishing to participate can write The World Series of Junior Golf Tour at North Woodward Ave., Suite 120, Birmingham, Mich. 48011; or call 642-6120.

# Finally, Chiefs tip Salem

Nothing lasts forever, especially in athletic competition.

The Plymouth Salem boys track team found that out Monday, as rival Plymouth Canton beat them 78-58 in the boys half of the Mangan Relay.

It was the first time Canton has won a dual track meet from the Rocks.

"I had a long talk with the kids after the meet," said Salem coach Gary Balconi. "I told them that, first of all, no one goes forever without getting beat. It's not that we are a bad team or anything like that. Canton was just better this day. I told them if they made their best efforts, then their biggest concern should be what's for lunch."

The turning point in the meet was the 440-yard dash. Salem has a good stock of sprinters, but on this day, Canton took 1-2-3.

"We didn't expect that," Balconi said. "That really hurt us."

DAVE WASKIN took first place with a 52.29. Jim Young was second (52.55) and Chris Hayash (53.18).

Canton also swept the long jump with Tyrone Reeves (20-7), Roger Trice (19-3 1/2) and Geoff Estevez (18-10 1/4).

Salem had the meet's lone double-winner. Brian Neuhardt won the 100 (no official time) and the 220 (22.65).

Other winners for the Rocks were Bill Campbell in the shot put (42-6), Ron Pivko in the pole vault (12-5),

Eric Pahl in the 880 (2:09.4) and Bill Atwell in the 2-mile (10:26.46).

Salem won both the 880 relay (1:33.15) and mile relay (3:35.18).

THE CHIEFS took two of the first three places in both hurdle events. Bryan Whiteley (15.37) and Dan Houdek (15.58) went 1-2 in the 120-yard highs, while Houdek (40.73) and Whiteley (41.95) went 1-3 in the 330 lows.

Mike Luttrell earned the Chiefs an unexpected first in the discus with a 124-5. Steve Jenyk won the high

jump with a 6-2. Jay Swiecki captured the mile run with a 4:39.83.

Canton claimed both the 440 relay (46.16) and the 2-mile relay (8:30.59).

It's been a big year for the Chiefs. They won the Oberverland meet, have yet to lose a dual meet and now, for the first time, have their name on the Mangan trophy.

Hail to the Chiefs, indeed.

The girls half of the Mangan meet, rained out last Tuesday, has been rescheduled for 3:30 p.m. Monday.

Beginning at 4:30 tonight, Salem is hosting an all-area junior varsity track and field meet. All Western Lakes schools will compete. Field events begin at 4:30; running events at 6 p.m.

For Salem, Mike Albertson captured the high jump with a 6-4 and set a Salem freshman record. Chris Range won the 120 high hurdles (15.99) and Jeff Armstrong won the 330 low hurdles (41.16).

Brian Neuhardt was a winner in the 440 (51.87) and Eric Pahl took the 880 (2:08.88).

The Rocks are 3-2.

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# GC softballers unbeaten

By Larry O'Connor  
staff writer

Garden City came back enough times to win three games Tuesday night in a non-league softball game against Plymouth Salem.

And after the third time the Cougars finally got it right, winning 5-4 over the heavy-hitting Rocks in a nine-inning opener of a double-header. The Cougars then duplicated their first game feat by winning the nightcap of a double-header at Garden City Park, 5-4, in another nine-inning thriller.

It was unbeaten GC's 23rd and 24th wins this season.

"We've come back in three games this season," said GC coach Jim Lenic. "But we've never come back three times in one game."

Mary Hebert kept the No. 1-ranked Cougars perfect by slapping a base hit to right-center field to score Shelly Malone with the winning run in the bottom of the ninth.

Until that point, Salem (15-5) and ranked No. 4 in Oberverland) was on a crusade to snap the Cougars' unbeaten string. Going into the seventh inning, the Rocks led 3-2.

THEN FUNNY stuff started happening.

With two outs in the seventh, Mikey Gorak lofted a soft fly ball in front of the pitcher's mound. Salem's Maggie Meisner moved under it and watched in horror as the ball bounced out of her mitt.

Karen Sandman was then safe on a fielder's choice, advancing Gorak to second. Malone then connected for a base hit, scoring Gorak to tie the game, 3-3.

After Salem took a 4-3 lead in eighth on a double by Meisner and an error, the Cougars had a little two-out magic in the bottom of the inning. Amy Thompson knocked in Tracy Richards with an RBI single to knot the score 4-4.

Hebert's game-winning hit in the ninth came with one out.

The win preserved Malone's winning streak at 21 straight, but she was roughed up in the early going.

Bonnie Waller, the Rocks designated hitter, went 3-for-3. Her home run in the second inning gave Salem a 2-0 lead. Salem scored an unearned run in the first on after Joe Handley got on with an error, stole two bases, and came home on a ground out.

SALEM'S THIRD run of the game came on Marcel Walker's RBI single which scored Darlene Gagliardi in the second.

Malone settled down and shut out the Rocks until the eighth. She had to work herself out of a jam in the sixth with two runners on and no outs.

After getting the lead runner, Meisner, at third on a sacrifice bunt attempt, Malone got Handley to fly out and Walker to ground out. In nine innings, she struck out four and walked four.

But it wasn't so much what Malone was throwing as it was what the Rocks were missing in the field which hurt Salem. Meisner, who went the distance, took the loss.

"We've got good hitters," said Salem coach Rob Willette. "We just give up too many runs. Tonight was a perfect example."

Salem rapped out eight hits in the game as did Garden City.

For the Cougars, Malone had a double and single in four trips to the plate. After she doubled in the sixth, she scored on Sherri Burton's RBI single for Garden City's second run of the game.

Gorak's triple in the third drove in Thompson, who was on with a walk, for the Cougar's first run of the game.

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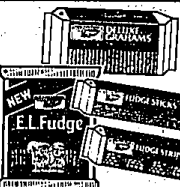
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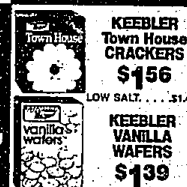
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