

Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312

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(F)D

O&E champ gets scholarship to U-M

Zonder eyes more golf honors

By C.J. Risk
staff writer

The champ will be back. That's good news for the Observer & Eccentric/Whispering Willows womens golf tournament. But wait — there's more.

Tournament director Gary Whitmer is considering adding an open division for the tournament. The open division would be just that — a division open to any golfer, regardless of age or handicap.

The idea is a simple one and is under consideration because of a need for another competitive category. At the past five O&E tournaments, the championship flight has been mainly a two-woman battle, with Birmingham's Ann Lauer in the hunt each time — first against GERALYN Repasky of Livonia (who has since become a teaching pro) and, for the past two years, against Erica Zonder of Farmington.

golf

OTHERS HAVE challenged — last year Tricia Waldo of Livonia closed with a 39 over the final nine holes to finish one stroke behind runner-up Lauer — but several golfers have been caught between flights. Their handicaps put them in the championship flight, but they aren't quite good enough to stay with the best.

Which is what prompted the plan for an open division. It means there will be more prizes available, but remember: The top awards will still go to the championship flight winner.

Last year that was Zonder, who shot a 78 to win by five strokes.

"I thought I'd like to be back to defend my title," said Zonder Tues-

day. She hedged just a bit as she figured if her schedule would allow it. By mid-August, she will begin playing with University of Michigan's golf team. The O&E tournament is Aug. 13.

NO, THE QUESTION needn't be asked — she'll be playing for the women's team. True, at North Farmington Zonder co-captained the boys golf team. That won't be the case at U-M. She received a full scholarship when she signed in April.

"I was going to go to Iowa State," said Zonder. "I had decided in February to go to Iowa State. When the day came to sign the letter (of intent), I talked to the U-M coach (Sue LeClair), and she said she'd give me a full scholarship."

"We're going to turn the (U-M) program around. (LeClair) is bringing in some other really good golf-

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Erica Zonder, a June graduate of North Farmington High School, will attempt to defend her title in the O&E women's golf tournament before heading for the University of Michigan.

Mound corps boosts South Farmington

Good pitching will do it every time.

A trio of South Farmington hurlers gave superb performances as their Mickey Mantle ballclub won its last three games in lopsided fashion.

Ben Underwood and Scott Lakatos pitched a pair of two-hit victories Saturday to lead South to a doubleheader sweep of Livonia, 8-0 and 10-2.

Teammate Chris Schmidt followed those outings with a one-hitter Monday in South's 11-0 shutout of Livonia Stevenson.

"He pitched an absolutely superb game," said South coach Lou Pirronello, adding Schmidt repeatedly fouled the opposition

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with a "real good sinking curveball."

SCHMIDT, WHO IS 5-0 with two saves and has lowered his earned run average to 0.78, struck out 10 and walked four in the game that was called after 5½ innings due to darkness.

South, 14-4-1 in the league and 20-5-1

overall, had only a 3-0 lead before breaking loose for eight runs in the sixth, which saw Les Luark rip a three-run homer.

P.J. Green, who was 3-for-3 and had three RBI, made the score 3-0 with a two-run single in the fourth inning.

Billy Hardy, one of three players with two hits and one RBI, drove in Green with the game-winning run in the third. Schmidt and Jay Alexander also had two safeties.

In the opening game Saturday, Underwood, who hadn't pitched in two weeks and just returned from an ankle injury, struck out 10 and didn't walk anyone through six innings.

Kevin Young pitched the final inning of each game. He struck out the side in relief of Underwood and fanned two after replacing Lakatos in the nightcap.

LAKATOS, WORKING five of six innings in the second game, posted four strikeouts and issued six walks. South broke a scoreless tie with six runs in the fifth inning of the opener. South had eight of its 11 hits in that inning.

Paul Pirronello knocked in two fifth-inning runs with a single, Dave Miracle's double plated another and Hardy, Young and Alexander had RBI singles.

Pirronello was 2-for-3 with three RBI and

Young 2-for-4 with two RBI.

In the second game, South was never behind after scoring three times in the top of the first. The first five batters walked to make it 3-0, and Alexander's groundout drove in the third run.

Underwood, who collected four RBI on two hits, had a two-run single in the second, and Alexander tripled and scored on an error in the next inning.

Underwood's two-run double was the big hit during a four-run fifth that capped the victory. Hardy, who also drove in a run that inning, was 2-for-3 with two walks and three stolen bases.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Founders tennis

Brad Pugh of Farmington Hills was runner-up to Dan Hight in the boys 14-and-under competition in the Founders Festival Tennis

Tournament. Pugh returns volley to York Griffith in a semifinal match won by Pugh, 6-4, 6-0. See Page 4D for results.

Davidson wins national title

Kori Davidson got what she wanted, but she had to call upon all the reserves of her stamina to get it.

What Davidson got was a national title. She obtained it at the USTA National Hardcourt Tennis Championships, which concluded Sunday in San Rafael, Calif.

Davidson, from Farmington Hills, teamed with Amy Chimbinello of Boston to defeat Lisa Pugliese and Wendy Sachs, both of Memphis, 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 in the 14 and under doubles final. Davidson and Chimbinello were seeded No. 1 entering the tournament; Pugliese and Sachs were No. 4.

What made the victory more remarkable was that, 40 minutes be-

tennis

fore the start of the doubles final, Davidson finished playing in the 14 and under singles final. She lost to No. 1 seed Mike McEneaney of Denver, 6-1, 6-1. Davidson was seeded fifth entering the tournament.

THE MATCHES were played on a day that broke local records for high temperatures. The thermometer reached 106 degrees; the temperature on the court was much higher. Davidson and Sachs played and

won five matches en route to the title. In singles, Davidson survived six previous matches before succumbing in the final.

Her most impressive singles win came in the quarterfinals, when she upset No. 3 seed Jill Brenner 7-6 (6-4 in the tiebreaker), 6-1. Other wins came against No. 5 seed Nicole Elliott of San Diego 6-2, 6-0 in the round of 16 and over seeded Nicole Willetta, also of San Diego, 6-3, 6-3 in the semifinals.

Davidson, who attends Farmington Harrison, was ranked fifth in her age group in the USTA standings entering the tournament. Based upon her tournament performance, that rating will probably improve.

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