

Sports

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Mercy honoring Mallon

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Meg Mallon recalls her years as a student at Mercy High School as being among the best experiences of her life.

Her days at the all-girls Catholic school in Farmington Hills put Mallon on the path to becoming a successful professional golfer.

Remembering her roots and returning to pay a debt of gratitude, Mallon is participating today in the inaugural Mercy Golf Outing and Tribute Dinner at Edgewood Country Club.

Mercy also will give Mallon a "thank you" and honor the 28-year-old alumna tonight as the first inductee into the Mercy Hall of Fame.

"That's a head-shaker," said Mallon, who burst onto the national scene this year as a three-time winner on the Ladies Professional Golf Tour.

"There are so many Mercy grads who have contributed and given back. I hope it fills up quickly, because I feel there are others more deserving."

The golf outing, which raised \$40,000 for the school, was the brainchild of Larry Teevens, the chairman of the music department and prominent figure in Mercy fund-raising.

"I thought of it watching Meg play at Indianwood last year," he said. "When she won a tournament (the Oldsmobile Classic in February) I struck. I didn't even think about it."

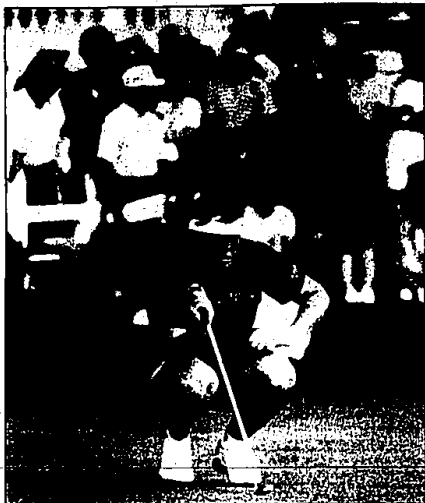
While introducing Mallon to a gathering of family, friends and Mercy supporters Thursday evening at Too Chee restaurant in Novi, Teevens said "Meg cooperated beautifully" in promoting the fund-raiser by winning the LPGA Championship and U.S. Women's Open earlier this summer.

"This is easy for me," Mallon said. "Giving back by playing golf is terrific."

FIRST TEACHER

Among those attending the Thursday event was Paul Vanloosen, for 33 years the pro at Edgewood and Mallon's first golf instructor.

"She always had great potential," Vanloosen said. "It's hard to envision



Meg Mallon, former Mercy golfer who has become a star on the LPGA Tour, participates today in a fund-raising event for her alma mater.

(Mallon would be so successful), but she could hit the ball a long way and she worked hard, so you always knew the potential was there.

"I worked a lot with her on the basics like I would with any kid. She polished her skills with some other pros, but I think I got her started on the right track."

Vanloosen said he was impressed by the way Mallon finished the U.S. Open, holding on to defeat Pat Bradley at the end.

"To come in there with the veteran players she was with and outlast them was a real sign of control and class," he said. "The normal tendency is to gas it a bit when you're not used to that, but she played like a veteran."

MERCY PROSPECT

Kristyn Schukins, who will be a senior at Mercy this fall and plays on the golf team, idolizes Mallon and hopes she can follow in her footsteps one day.

"I asked her if she ever thought she would be on the tour," Schukins said. "She said she had no idea and look where she is now."

"She's an inspiration to me, because I'm working so hard to get a scholarship. I know it's within reach, getting a scholarship and becoming something of what she is someday."

It wasn't until Mallon was a junior at Mercy that she wanted to pursue competitive golf. She didn't get a

college scholarship out of high school but walked on at Ohio State and became an All-American. In her junior year, "I saw teammates going out and becoming pros, and I figured I might as well try it," Mallon said.

She also had some advice for Schukins — and all golfers.

"(Schukins) asked me how I felt when I saw my name on the leader board and how I handled it," Mallon said. "The first few times I got caught up in it and didn't play well. In the meantime, I watched 20 others go past. I learned you have to finish the round of golf first."

MALLON'S CAREER

Mallon, who has been on the pro tour for five seasons, earned \$1,500 her first year but probably learned the most in terms of what it required to handle the rigors of the tour and be successful.

"I also found I fell in love with the game and wanted to stay out there," she said.

Each succeeding year has been more financially rewarding for Mallon. She earned approximately \$25,000, \$49,000 and \$128,000 the past three years and this year with big paydays in the LPGA and Open has won \$448,000.

"There's been a nice progression," she said, "and it's been in the right direction."

"It's strange because the money is so public. Everything is there in the paper. It took a couple years of not making a dime having to pay people back to get there."

"I'll have to make some investments and secure it. I'm still in the midst of the season and haven't thought about it. They're nice dilemmas I have now."

MALLON, WHO is admired as much for her pleasant personality, has the natural skills to deal with the media, but that has been a learning experience, too.

"It seems everyone has a schedule and a deadline," she said, "and I'm trying to learn the balance of it. I try to cooperate as much as I can, but there comes a time when you need to have time for yourself."

"I have to make sure it doesn't interfere with the reason I'm out there, and that is my practice time."

Gilmore makes Olympic hockey

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Mike Gilmore has done it again — bucked the odds and made a hockey team few thought he could.

In this case, the hockey team is the United States Olympic squad. The Farmington Hills resident was one of three goalkeepers among the 30 players who survived the cut last week at the training center in St. Cloud, Minn.

Fifty-three players were invited to the Olympic Trials, including five goalies. Players reported to camp July 31, and the roster was trimmed less than a week later.

Gilmore and his U.S. teammates were to leave Sunday for France and later Finland for a pair of European tournaments. They will return Friday, Aug. 30, and begin a domestic tour. The team will play about 60 pre-Olympic games.

JUST PRIOR to the 1992 Games next winter, four more players will have to be cut from the U.S. team, but none will be goalies since the U.S. will keep three netminders.

Gilmore is joined on the team by Scott Gordon, a goalie in the Quebec Nordiques farm system, and Wes Kuntar, who played last season for St. Lawrence University.

"They're good but I'm not outclassed," said Gilmore, who made the Michigan State team as a walk-on player and eventually became its top goalie. "We'll see what happens when we go over to Europe. I think that will be the telling card."

"(The coaches) haven't said much. I think they're waiting to see what happens in Europe, too."

Rob Stauber, who won the Hobey Baker Award while playing for the University of Minnesota a few years ago and belongs to the Los Angeles Kings, was invited to the trials but is injured and won't be available until November.

If he comes back, there is the possibility he could bump one of the other three from the team. But Gilmore is part of the team for now; plus, he and the others have a three-month jump on Stauber.

"THERE ARE many variables I can't control," Gilmore said. "I'll just do my thing and let the cards fall where they may."

Gilmore has a fifth year of eligibility remaining at MSU and will return to play for the Spartans if it appears he will be just a back-up goalie with the Olympic team.

"I've got the jersey," he said. "What it all comes down to now is how much playing time am I going to get?"

In the meantime, Gilmore is enjoying the lavish treatment he and the other players are receiving.

In addition to their uniforms with "USA" on the jersey, the Olympians were fitted for sport coats, dress pants, white shirts and "fancy sweat-suits" for travel purposes, Gilmore said. They also receive \$30 a day in meal money.

The team is staying at the Econolodge but plans to stay in more expensive hotels once the playing tour starts, he added.

"WE GET new things every day — warmups, uniforms, luggage," Gilmore said. "Everything is first class. So far it's been an unbelievable experience for me. I never thought I would be in this situation."

The Olympic team even had a photographer from a bubblegum card company come to the National Hockey Arena in St. Cloud last week to take action shots of the players.



JIM JAGGELD/Staff photographer

Wolverines goalie Darren Burton turns away a shot in the MSHL championship game. He made several key saves, and his brother, Joe Burton, scored the winning goal.

Burton lifts Wolverine icers

By Dan O'Meara
staff writer

Joe Burton was the Metro Summer Hockey League scoring champion this year, so it was fitting he should be the one to score the last goal of the 1991 season.

Burton scored just 18 seconds into overtime last week to give the Wolverines a 4-1 victory over the Lakers in the MSHL championship game at Plymouth Ice Arena.

The 24-year-old Garden City resident fired a slapshot from the right wing and decided the issue at 6:44 in the extra session.

"In overtime, you try to get as many shots as you can and, hopefully, one goes in," said Burton, who serves as player/coach along with former University of Michigan Dearborn teammate Tim Osborn. "I felt like I got all of it; I shot it hard and it went in."

The Wolverines were rewarded for a persistent effort with their overtime win.

THEY TRAILED for much of the game and rallied from one-goal defi-

hockey

cits three times in the third period to tie and eventually force the overtime.

The Lakers led 2-1 after Mike Krygier scored late in the first period and held that edge until Osborn tied it at 10:39 in the third. The Lakers tried to win it twice going a goal up only to have the Wolverines show new life.

"We just tried to keep it close; we knew we could score," said Burton, who led the league with 28 goals and 50 points in the regular season. "As long as we weren't down more than three going into the third, we felt pretty confident."

The Lakers went ahead 3-2 and 4-3 on goals by Krygier and Jim Mitchell at 6:09 and 2:30 in the last period, but the Wolverines pulled even a short time later when Scott Dresch and Mark Isael countered with goals

tying goals at 5:23 and 2:02.

"What really hurt us going into the third period was a lack of bench strength," said Lakers coach Mike Kesler of Livonia. "With our two lines going up against their three, we had to play strong defensive hockey if we were going to hold that lead."

"They also had two or three saves by their goalie (Darren Burton). We had him down and out; all we had to do was put it on the top shelf. But we put it right into him, and they were excellent saves."

KESLER ADDED some of his better players began to tire late in the game, but he didn't want to diminish the effort and ability of the Wolverines by using that as an excuse.

"Nobody else in the league can put five guys out there who are as good as the five they had on the ice at the end of the third period and going into overtime," he said.

Kesler added he never thought the game was his to win even though the Lakers held the lead most of the night.

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