

## Sports

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JIM JAGGELD/staff photographer

After a four-year absence, Doug Cumming of Farmington Hills returned to win the championship flight of the O&E golf tournament Sunday.

## O&E contestants saw it Cumming

By Steve Kowalski  
staff writer

Doug Cumming, who has missed the last four O&E Men's Golf Tournaments, made a successful return appearance last weekend at Livonia's Fox Creek and Whispering Willows golf courses.

Cumming, the runner-up in the 1986 O&E Championship Flight, won the 1991 36-hole tournament with a 7-over par 149. Cumming, a Livonia native and Farmington Hills resident, finished with a 75 Saturday at Fox Creek and followed with Sunday's round of 74 at Whispering Willows.

Cumming has been unable to play the last four O&E tournaments because of other commitments on the Michigan Public amateur circuit, but he's always happy to return to play in his hometown.

"This was the first tournament I ever played in as a kid," said the 37-year-old Cumming, who won the O&E First Flight in the late 1970s. "It's been a frustrating year for me, but this tournament is a little more relaxed. It's not the greatest field in the state, but you have to play good golf to beat people here."

Cumming played well enough to edge long-time friend and nemesis, Gary Cauzillo of Redford by three strokes. Troy's Joe Borkowski came in third place (75-79/154), followed by Plymouth's Leo Martin (76-80/156) and Farmington Hills' Mike Zonder (78-78/156), who tied for fourth place.

For the rest of the results, see 4B.

This was the first time Fox Creek Golf Course was used as one of the venues for the two-round tournament and the four-year-old course proved to play tougher than Whispering Willows. The 43 players who finished the Championship Flight averaged 83.27 strokes at Fox Creek and 82.44 strokes at Whispering Willows.

"Fox Creek has probably got a better layout but it's just too hard," said Cauzillo, the 1989 O&E Championship Flight winner. "The greens are like cement and it's not fair because you can't stop the ball — ever."

Paul Worley, assistant golf pro at Whispering Willows, said Fox Creek's playing surfaces were harder because a break in the watering system in recent weeks. Mark Agabashian, a 38-year-old Livonian, was one of the few to stay within striking distance of Cumming on

the first day, carding a 76. Agabashian's fortunes reversed, however, on Sunday as he finished bogey, bogey, double bogey and came home with an 81 to take sixth place at 157.

"I was hitting the ball pretty good until we had a long wait on the par-3 15," said Agabashian, an O&E veteran player. "Then I started slapping the ball around and on two of the last three holes found sand."

Worley said the O&E's four flights drew 130 entrées, down from 145 a year ago. The Championship Flight had 37 entrées this season, which was an increase over last year's count of 51.

A total of \$1,450 in gift certificates were distributed to the winners and some of the runners-up in each flight. "It's been a stronger field this year than it has been," Worley said.

### FIRST FLIGHT

Westland's Murray Brooks, a veteran of several O&E Championship Flights, entered the First Flight and it paid off. Brooks won with a two-day total of 156, six strokes better than second place Jeff Truax, a Livonia native and Redford resident.

"It was kind of a surprise. I just went out and tried to have a nice weekend," Brooks said. "I drove the ball good and putted good."

What does Brooks plan to do with the \$175 gift certificate he won?

"I'll probably get something for my wife, she deserves it for all the golfing I do," Brooks said.

Truax, who won the First Flight in '87, shot an 84 at Fox Creek and a 78 at Whispering Willows.

"It was smart getting Fox Creek (as a venue) because it gives it a little more of a challenge," Truax said. "Fox Creek played long and the greens is what the course is all about. It has tough greens, tough pin positions."

### SECOND/THIRD FLIGHTS

Fred Emory, of Canton, won the second flight with a 91-96 for a 177 total, one shot better than Chas Henry (89-89).

Farmington Hills' Robert Taylor, an assistant golf coach at Farmington High School, won the Third Flight with a two-day total of 187 (95-94). Richard Fink, also of Farmington Hills, took second place with a 190 (97-93).

"It's a great time, everyone ought to do it," said Taylor. "If you're into golf, you can get into it easily."

## Mercy grad earns Harwell scholarship

For baseball broadcaster Ernie Harwell, this was his last week on the job, the end of 32 seasons as the voice of the Detroit Tigers. But as is his style, rather than dwell on something so sad and unnecessary, Harwell was presenting scholarships to aspiring journalists.

On Monday, a few hours before Harwell and his retiring broadcast partner Paul Carey would give emotional farewells following the final home game of the season, 11

students received Ernie Harwell Foundation scholarships.

Hundreds gathered at the Renaissance Center for the informal affair, their \$25 admission going toward scholarships and the ballpark fare of hotdogs, chili, fresh popcorn, peanuts and ice cream.

Taking the podium, Harwell welcomed everyone and awarded the foundation's inaugural scholarships.

"This won't get these youngsters through school, but it will help them buy a few books



M.B. Dillon

and maybe some chewing gum," said Harwell with a laugh. "I think it's very important these youngsters get the recognition

they deserve. And we really feel this scholarship fund will last a long time."

CHRISTINE BOYD of Canton, a graduate of Westland John Glenn High School now attending the University of Michigan, was the first to receive \$3,000, warm congratulations, a smile and a "God bless you" from the master of ceremonies.

"This will help me a lot," said Boyd, who plans to become a network broadcaster. "Ernie is so respected; this is really exciting."

Like everyone there, Boyd felt mixed emotions.

"It's a sad day; it's the end of an era," she said. "I'm sure everyone will miss Ernie Harwell. Baseball games won't seem the same."

Among the other winners — from high schools including Oak Park, Cooley, Renaissance, Cass Tech, Riverview and Central — was Farmington Hills Mercy graduate Kari

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JIM JAGGELD/staff photographer

## Marlins capture division

Farmington Hills Mercy captured the Catholic League Central Division dual-meet championship in girls cross country Tuesday with a 17-14 victory over Birmingham Marian at Inglenook Park in Southfield.

"The kids have been working hard, but we want to keep things in perspective," Mercy coach Gary Servais said. "We still have to meet some tough teams in the league meet that we didn't have to face head-to-head (in dual meets)."

Sharmila Prasad captured first place and paced the Marlins with a season-best time of 19:55. Mercy's Heather Nell was second (20:14), Amy Freund third (20:44), Cara McDonagh fifth (21:32) and Eileen O'Connell sixth (22:27).

The Marlins had seven runners in the top 10. Stephanie Johnson was seventh (22:36) and Mary Thewes ninth (23:21).

Marian's top runners were Nicole Eberle (20:58), Kristen Cusmano (22:03) and Maggie Durkee (24:02).

Mercy won its division Saturday and was third overall in the 16-team Central Line Invitational.

Livonia Stevenson won its third invitational championship in four attempts with 86 points. The top five included Monroe (93), Mercy (115), Port Huron Northern (158) and Grosse Pointe North (159).

Scoring for the Marlins were Freund, fifth (19:45); Prasad, ninth (19:56); Nell, 11th (20:02); McDonagh, 40th (21:12); and O'Connell, 50th (21:39).

Jason Zdyraki of Harrison was fourth at the Redford Union Invitational Tuesday. See Page 6B for complete race statistics.

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