## Catholic Central grad wins O&E championship

BY C.J. RISAR
SPORTS EDTOR

Call it a playoff spectacular.
Rager Trevision of Livonia recorded the best round of the annual Observer & Eccentric/Whispering Willows Golf Tournament, fring an even-par 70 on Saturday, but he had to withstand a late charge by Karl Nagy of Plymouth in order to win the championship flight Sunday.

Indeed, it took a 37th hole for the winner to be decided. And that wasn't the only flight that went into overtime; three of the four were decided by playoffs, one of them (first flight) going five extra holes before a champion was crowned.

Trevison, a Farmington native and Redford Catholic Central

GOLF

(1987) graduate, followed his opening-day 70 with a 38-4179 on Sunday, which left the door open for Nagy. He responded, following his 75 on Saturday with a 36-3874 on Sunday to the Trevison at 149.

"It was really just a lack of playing," Trevison said of his final round." I played 27 good holes, then got kind of carcless But I've anly played I5 rounds of golf this summer."

As it was, it took a birdie on

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championship flight. Trevison won that time as well, getting birdies on both holes to edge Nagy by a single stroke.

"Maybe next time," was about all Nagy could say. It's not that he hasn't played well; in fact, he's been in the running most every year, placing second two years ago, third in 1997 and now seened again.

This year's playoff wasn't quite as dramatic as last year's, but there was more at stake. Both Trevision and Nagy reached the fringe of the 439-yard, nur-four 10th hole in two; Trevison, however, knocked down his second putt while Nagy three-putted.

Although Trevision hasn't played much this senson, he has plenty of experience. He wan the state junior amateur champi-

Pepperdine University (Malibu, Calif.) to play for two years before returning. He graduated from the University of Michigan

in 1991.
"Two really gotten out of competitive golf," he said. "This is the first tournament I've played all year. I just decided to give it a co."

nin year. I just declared to give it.

Now, of course, he's happy he
did. "I feel really fortunate to
win it." Trevison said. "That was
a good example of how not to finish a tournament. But I couldn't have played the playoff any bet-ter."

er. In first flight, the story was In first Hight, the story was just the opposite, although the finish was similar. Unlike Trevi-son, who opened well on Satur-day then hung on on Sunday, Ed Donahue of Livonia struggled on the first day, carding an 83. On

Sunday, however, he turned in the best round of the day in any flight, shooting a 72 to tie Steve Geanides of Redford at 155, forcing a playoff.

It wann't exactly pretty, but Donahue finally emerged with the title when he boggyed the fifth playoff hole, the par-four, 365-yard 14th, while Geanides got a double-boggy.

So what did Donahue do differently to alter his fortunes? "I changed putters," he said after his playoff marathon.

The third playoff came in second flight, and it was the most dramatic. Craig Nehasii of Canton caught Gordon Stefanick of Livonia with a Sunday round of 84 (Stefanick shot 86), each finishing with a 169 total. On the first playoff hole, the par-five 485-yard first hole, Stefanick got

into immediate trouble with an off-the-fairway tee shot. His second shot left him well left of the green, while Nehasil was on the right yide of the fairway, 15 yide of the fairway, 15 yide short of the green. Stefanick nearly knocked down the shot of the tournament when his third attempt, from 40 yards away, hit the flog, However it didn't drop, instead rolling to stop 40 feet past the cup. It was all for naught, anyway, Nehasil followed Stefanick's effort with what would have to be the shot of the tournament, holing his chip for an eaglethree.

In third flight, alas — there was no playoff. Tom Sokloski of Garden City won it going away, firing a 95-93/188 to outdistance runner-up Jny DeOrdio of Plymouth 112-91/203).

## Madonna's new coach certainly qualified for job

How often does something like this happen?

this happen?
You find out you're losing your conch, one that's taken your team from the depths to national prominence. This all happens just before the start of the school year. So what are you gonna do

year. So what are you gonan oo:
How about hiring someone
with strong qualifications, a
greater knowledge of the game
(well, maybe) than his predecessor, a guy with coaching experience who knows the program
he's taking command of?

Nah is the answer. No one could be that lucky to find a guy like that waiting in the wings.

No one except Madonna Uni-Here's what's happened, Jerry

Abraham, the school's long-time volleyball coach, was asked five years ago to take over the soft-ball team in the wake of Dave Racer's untimely departure. Abraham did, and in his first cason (1994) he guided the Lady Crusaders to the NAIA World Series. They finished fifth in the nation that year.

Abraham continued conching both sports, compiling a 155-82-1 record in softball, with NAIA Sectional championships in 1995, '96 and '97.

But it was too much for him, together with working as a teacher and counselor in the Taylor school district. It was time for him to step aside.

"I just decided it last week," Abraham said. "I just didn't have enough time. I really like the sport. The administration has

## SOFTBALL

been super, very supportive of me. I'm going to miss it, but it was the time factor."

was the time factor."
Enter Al White.
"I really and truly thought this would happen last year," said White, noting that Abraham had contemplated resigning last year because of time constraints. Which is what was fortunate about the entire situation: White was always there—ready, willing and able.

ing and able.

Indeed, when Racer stepped aside White would have been a candidate to replace him. He had been an assistant coach at Madonna since the beginning of the program, in 1990; prior to that, he was an assistant at

Livonia Ladywood HS for two

But White was not in the posi-But White was not in the position then work-wise to devote
enough time to the program. He
would stay on as an assistant,
but he couldn't take over the full
responsibilities.

That changed this year. White
has a more floxible schedule, and
now Madonna has a new head
coach — one the team knows
well.

Thinkly recommended Al.

well,
"I highly recommended Al,"
said Abraham. "He's been with
me since I started at Madona.
I'm very happy to see him get it."
So what makes White such a
solid conching candidate? How
about 30 years of playing experience?

In fact, he was inducted into the state's American Softball

Association Hall of Fame this year. He was a well-known modified fast-pitch pitcher for teams in Miami and Plymouth, something he continued to do until this year.

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his year.

He decided to help coach at
Ladywood beenuse his daughter.
Shannon, was pitching there. He
hasn't stopped since.

"I really didn't know what to
expect," White said of his early
conching days. "I didn't know
(canching at Madonna) would
lead to anything more."

Not at first, anyway. Then
. "Starting about five years ago,
I thought I might like to try and
run a program, even a good high
school program, "he said.

White continued as Abraham's
assistant, waiting for the right
struction and learning his craft.
"I learned a lot from Jerry,"

White said, "He's a good coach. I learned a lot from all the people I coached under.

"I've always enjoyed coaching girls. I found out coaching girls was easier than coaching boys. They respect you more and they'll listen better."

White does have plans to do things a bit differently. "I think we'll try to be a bit more aggressive," he said. "More bunting, ut more pressure on their

defense."
Unfortunately, the recruiting wasn't all White had hoped it woud be. He may have to break in an entirely new pitching staff, with freshman Missy Bako (from Garden City) as the only members.

He's still trying, however After all, his job begins today with the start of his fall season.



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