

76 golfers vie for big buck, in Royal Oak PGA tourney

A select field which includes 14 former Michigan PGA and Michigan Open champions will be shooting for a first prize of \$2,000 in the \$10,500 Royal Oak PGA Golf Classic September 15 at the Royal Oak Golf Club.

Larry Mancour, Flint Elks Club professional who competed in both the U.S. Open and national PGA championships this summer, will be seeking his third consecutive victory in the fourth annual Classic.

Mancour, a former Michigan PGA champion, leads a field of 76 top professionals into the one-day, 18-hole event over the deceptive, well-manicured course at Thirteen Mile and Bamlet Roads, just east of Woodward in Royal Oak. The pros will make two tours of the 9-hole layout, with the first four-some teeing off at 10 a.m.

THE \$10,500 PURSE and the \$2,000 first prize are the highest offered for a one-day event in Michigan. The prize money is being provided by 150 businessmen and individuals in the Royal Oak area.

The 76-man field includes 1953 National PGA Champion Walter Burkemo, who also has won the Michigan PGA and Michigan Open titles; long-hitting George Bayer, a former tour player who won the Canadian Open and the 1973 Michigan Open; and the dean of Michigan golf, former Oakland Hills pro Al Watrous, winner of 34 tournaments including three national PGA Seniors championships, the Michigan PGA and Open, and the Canadian Open. Burkemo and Watrous both are former Ryder Cup players.

Gene Bone of Bay Pointe, John Molenda of Knollwood, and Ron Fox of Braeburn, all winners of both the Michigan PGA and Michigan Open titles; current Michigan Open champion Lynn Jasson of Country Club of Lansing, and former champion Charles Knowles of Country Club of Jackson, Ted Kondratko, Radrick Farms, and Tom Rosely of Silver Lake in Grand Rapids, are in the field, along with former Michigan PGA champions Tom Deaton of Franklin Hills, Ben Lula of the Country Club of Detroit, and Blenn Stuart of Bedford Valley in Grand Rapids.

The field also includes Al Menger of Oakland Hills, former National Amateur champion and winner of several PGA sectional championships; Larry Tomasi of Waubesa Country Club; Ben Davis of Rackham, 1974 Michigan PGA Seniors champion; Stan and Cass Molenda of the Grand Blanc Golf Club, Tom Talkington of Barton Hills in Ann Arbor, and Royal Oak Club Professional John Dalrymple.

WATROUS, BURKEMO, Birmingham's Ray Maguire, Tam Shanter's Warren Orlick and the 1973 Michigan PGA Champion, Mike Austin of Chemung Hills in Jasper, join host professional Don Roper and Tom Shannon, now retired, in the special competition for seniors.

The gate admission price is \$2.50 per person, with proceeds from the gate going to the Royal Oak Boy's Club, the Walter Hagen Cancer Fund and the Salvation Army program for underprivileged children.

Kimball on top

Royal Oak Kimball defeated Southfield-Lathrup, 22-38, in a nonleague cross country meet last Monday. Lathrup's John Harding finished second in 16:12, and Steve Foley landed fourth in 16:42. Lathrup runs next at nonleague Southfield High on Thursday (Sept. 12). The meet begins at 4 p.m. at the Southfield High course.

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New coach at Troy

Tom Conley is a man who is in for a rough year and he knows it. The first year Troy high school football coach finds himself right in the middle of the tough South Division of the Oakland-A league and there will be no room at the top for the weak of heart.

The South division is going to be very tough this year. Uptight which tied for the championship last year has every player back. Madison will be tough, too. But I think we'll be a contender," Conley said optimistically.

ONE OF the things going against the Colts this year will be

the fact that Conley, as a first year coach, has instituted a new system and the first year of the new system for players to get things down pat may prove fatal.

"We'll use a Slot-I offense, which is not that difficult to learn," Conley said.

But Conley believes that the future of high school football lies with the multi-option offenses.

"The wishbone and the veer are very hard to stop. They put pressure on the defense, which is why they came in. But it's too hard to learn in one year, so we'll make a firm commitment to it sometime later in the program," he said.

For now, Conley will have his hands full staying in the South Division race. After a non-league opener at home against Berkley this Friday, the Colts will be up against the wall with seven straight league games until a season-ending match-up with fledgling Troy Athens.

CONLEY IS already looking forward to that finale against the cross-town Hawks not only because his squad should have little trouble with the primarily sophomore first-year Athens team, but also because he believes that the initiation of the series will be a benefit for both programs.

"This game could develop into a fine series. It could get to the point where the success of the season

could rest on the final game between the two rival schools," he said.

If the Colts are to go into that game with a winning record, they will have to have a big year out of tight end standout Bill Kyle. The 6-foot-2, 190 pounder caught 22 passes for 300 yards and four touchdowns as a junior last year, and also added six catches for touchdown conversions.

According to Conley there's football in Kyle's future after he graduates from Troy next June.

"HE'S DEFINITELY college material. I don't know at what level he'll play in college yet, but he'll get some offers."

The man who will be responsible for getting the ball to Kyle will be Clawson transfer Dave MacLeod.

"Dave throws the ball real well. He had two touchdowns passes in a recent scrimmage," Conley said.

Other standouts for the Colts this year will be brothers Rick and Frank Renaud who will both start in the backfield.

While the Colts have a shot at improving their 3-6 record of a year ago, how high they will go depends on how well they adapt to Conley who has been working hard to get his troops into the new system of things.

"I'VE PUT IN a lot of hours, but you don't mind the hours when you're doing something you like," Conley said.

From the looks of the Oakland-A South Division, Conley will be putting in a lot more hours this season.

Many of those hours will be spent awake at night trying to figure out how to get through the next game.

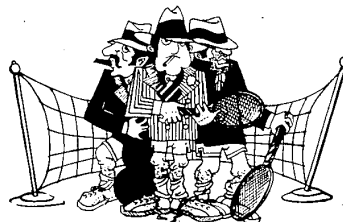
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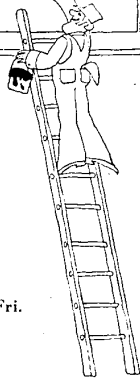
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