

Hackers will do anything to reserve a starting time

BY FRED DeLANO

A hardy lot... a strange breed... mentally imbalanced... a bunch of nuts, that's what they are. These only scratch the surface of the deceptions given to those humans so devoted, so dedicated to propelling a small ball great distances by striking it with a club on a vast outdoor obstacle course that their fervor becomes almost like a religion.

This has been a Michigan spring which weatherwise has brought forth the best (or worst, depending on your point of view) characteristics of the true golf devotee. For instance:

If you, too, are a golf nut, you will understand why otherwise rational grown men would camp out in a parking lot most of a cold, wet night just to sign up for a reserved Sunday morning starting time for their foursome throughout the season.

If you're not, then you likely would consider such behavior by men who hold responsible business positions, and who are loving husbands and fathers, to be evidence of mental disorders demanding psychiatric treatment.

OR HOW WOULD YOU react to having for a neighbor a man who joins several friends in taking snow blowers to a golf course off and on throughout the winter, the better to clean off the greens, you see, and who have dyed their golf balls red so

they can be spotted in the snow? For that matter, consider the severe squall that swept across such courses as Brae Burn and Salem Hills in the Plymouth area last Sunday afternoon. Did this deter players of the Michigan Public Golf Association and others of their ilk?

Not on your life, even though many fishermen looking more like drowned rats than would be athletes.

Nor did biting winds accompanied by snow flurries dull the PGA's first pro-am outing of the season a few days ago at Ann Arbor. Symbolically, these experts defied the elements in a display of "True Grit," a John Wayne film which perhaps they viewed on the tube the same night.

THE GOLF BUG makes no distinction between males and females, young or old. After all, one must get his or her game in shape for the warm days that certainly lie ahead.

Take the crowd that went to extremes that their personal group of 18 would be guaranteed four starting times between 6:30 and 7 a.m. each Sunday the rest of the summer at the Kensington Park Golf Course near Mt. Pleasant and Brighton.

Their "night out on the town" meant joining the lineup of vehicles hours before the registration window opened at 4 a.m. the Sunday before the season opened. But they got what they went for and now can jump gleefully from bed each Sabbath dawn to whack at the little nigger to their heads' content.

Phil Meagher, who owns a Southfield public relations agency, said the group's four cars were on the scene 20 minutes after midnight—and were beaten there by 10 others, the first arriving at 7:45 p.m. Saturday to start the cold wet night.

This bunch carries no name, and they don't play as a league—only for the fun and fellowship of it all. There are a few 80

OU hosts 2nd frisbie tourney

The second annual Stroh's Air Aces Open frisbie tournament will be held Saturday at the Oakland University soccer field. The tourney will feature a number of events this year, including guts (three-man teams), accuracy, distance and free-style doubles.

The tournament will attract frisbie enthusiasts from the United States and Canada, in addition to several area residents. For those who wish to participate, a \$2 fee will entitle an individual to enter all events.

Registration will be held from 8-10 a.m. on the morning of the event. Free frisbies will be given to every participant. For further information, call Ture Hoycraft (335-1917) or Keith Mohler (461-1180).

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shooters among 'em, but most are happy to break 100 over the par 71, 4,300-yard Kensington acreage which manager Barry Munnato, a guidance counselor at North Farmington High School, calls "the finest public facility as there is in the Detroit area."

Others of the regulars—and they represent a wide variety of professions—include:

Clarence Tarnoor, who lives in Livonia and teaches at Bloomfield Hills Lusher; John Perella of Livonia; Dick Sharp, Dan McLean, John Dimitri, Dave Dimitri and Larry Gorney, all of Southfield; Max Baldwin, executive director of the Southfield Chamber of Commerce; John Ruddy of Birmingham; George Fulton and John Kemler of Westland; Ken Patrick of Farmington; Alton, Chairman of Dearborn; Andy Dimitri of Pontiac and Gary Lockwood of No.

HARPER WITH WENS, a Plymouth resident who refired last year after a long career as bandmaster at Thurston High School in South Medford, confirms an even sadder case history of golf fanaticism.

Carl Farno and George Todd, both of Plymouth, and Charles Clark of South Redford are Stephens' customary cohorts in hugging snow blowers to Plymouth's Hilltop Glen Golf Club in the dead of winter to clean the putting surfaces as they trudge the course's nine holes oblivious to the snow.

"How cold can they stand it?"

"Well, we've played when it was so cold the wine has frozen in the bottle," admits Stephens.

Only fishermen could be more daff than that.

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

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