

Coed PALs draws huge army at Wabek Country Club

What's a poor wife to do when she discovers that her husband is going to play golf with Jan Stephenson in the J.P. McCarthy-PAL Invitational Golf Tournament at Wabek Country Club? Well, if she's smart, she opts for heat stroke and follows the blissful old man around the steamy golf course in full view of 15,000 fans.

And if she's really brilliant, she nails the glamorous young golf pro in the ladies room prior to play, introduces herself as the wife (and don't you forget it, honey) and gets an



By
ALICIA GILLETTE

unexpected interview to boot. So that's what she did. It all started last Monday night. Sports Illustrated hosted a pro-am drawing and cocktail party at the



A new army began to form when Jan Stephenson appeared at the PAL tournament at Wabek, Kris Lehnertz, 13, was among thousands of Stephenson Stalkers who trailed the pretty golfer during the pro-am tournament that raised \$108,000 for the Police Athletic League.

Northfield Hilton the night before the fifth annual golf tournament, which raised \$108,000 for the Detroit Police Athletic League.

ALL THE BIGGIES were there—local and touring golf pros and corporate tycoons who each parted with \$500 of their life's savings to play for the cause. Then there were news and sports celebrities and a galaxy of hard-working committee members.

His ribs J.P. McCarthy was at his finest as he introduced such golfing greats as Masters and British Open champ Tommy Watson, Hubert Green, Chi Chi Rodriguez, Rick and Don Massengale, Tom Kite and Tom Shaw, who helped draw the names of the 184 amateurs who would play with the 46 pros on Tuesday.

The crowd was to find out 24 hours later that 1975 winner Tom Shaw was declared winner over Kite by an eagle on the first playoff hole. Both turned in scored of 67 for 18 holes.

But back to the drawing scene. The pros mined, signed autographs and were loved by the PAL golfing "400."

Tom Maetz and Tony Franco found they were playing with Kite. Burroughs president Paul Mirabito and Ben Bidwell drew Doug Sanders. Paul Gibbons and young super-amateur Lance Young landed John Mahaffey. Spil Kerivan discovered his teammate was Hubert Green. Trip Bosart and Ron Kramer were assigned to a pro named Ben Lula.

That's the way it went all night as all eyes were glued to the pairings

board, and everyone speculated who would be paired with the two "girls."

SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, slight and can outdrive anyone in this room," said McCarthy as he described Jan Stephenson, one of the four or five top money-winning dishes on the LPGA tour.

Joe Colucci's name was drawn first. Cheers. Art Roshak was next. Loud applause. Jere Gillette came next. Bedlam. His wife tried to arrange a hasty switch. No luck. Tom Russell barely heard his name called.

So that was the team that drove me to crack out my chic pink golf outfit and worn-out tennis shoes to compete with a red tank top and tight white slacks that attract a massive mob of "Stephenson stalkers" for 18 holes.

But when the flat pink top confronted the voluptuous red top in the ladies room on Tuesday, it was discovered that both Jan and her dimpled golfing crone, Laura Baugh (playing with lucky Harry Bel Castro, Leo Kalyvas, Dr. Jim Wardell and Dr. Waldo Cain) were opposed to playing from the men's tees.

Also, Jan told the wife and her helpful interviewer, Dottie Smith (wife of Bruce, the teammate of Roger Maltbie), the girls' appearance at Wabek coincided with the U.S. Women's Open practice rounds in Minneapolis.

"I bet none of the men would have left a U.S. Open to come," said Jan. Right on for the girls, who had to rush right back to Minneapolis Tuesday night.

SO I ELBOWED my way down to the first tee where a gallery of 8,000 awaited "what's her name" (the other 7,000 were split between Miss Dimples and Watson), who made a grand entrance. 20 minutes late.

No one minded. She'd finally arrived. To play the men's tees. Her caddy, Marc Lazarus, scorekeeper Arlene Herman and leader board carrier Kris Lehnertz, 13, watched as she "topped" her 230-yard drive off the men's tee.

Colucci couldn't touch her. Gillette sucked his thumb. Roshak and Russell cried a lot. And the crowd ate Jan up.

From hole to hole, she was mobbed by autograph seekers, photographers and course marshalls who looked like a platoon of Secret Service men who died and gone to heaven.

Even when she blew it, Jan could do no wrong.

"I'm still in love," shouted a male voice from the gallery as she missed a putt on the eighth hole.

Scorekeeper Herman, a Wabek Country club golfer and one of the 110 women volunteers recruited by Candy Johns to help with registration and hosting as well as team scoring, almost ate her heart out as she watched Jan drive.

"Does she ever hit that ball," she repeated over and over.

No, it wasn't a miracle. It wasn't the 98 degrees. It was just Arlene Herman's mentor, who only shot a 79, but came to Wabek to help the PAL tournament score a hole in one for the Police Athletic League.

Thanks Jan (Laura, too). Who knows, we may even meet again soon. Gillette keeps talking about a quick trip to Minneapolis, and I'm ready for a vacation.

NOW, OFF THE golf course and onto the state with Jan's Productions, the newest of dinner theater companies.

Coming to Alvaro's Restaurant in Royal Oak each Friday and Saturday night for eight weeks starting July 29, the troupe is composed of some of our town's most talented thespians who have starred at the Village Players and St. Dunstan's.

Cast members Mary Geiger and

Dee Dee Charlton also have professional dinner theater credits, and Francis Lous also has performed at Meadow Brook Theatre.

Deck Charlton, Dick Dwellley and Tom D'Agostino complete the cast of "A Thumber Carnival," which has been directed four times a week since May by the talented Ed Guest III.

TV's "Laugh In" was rattled after this comedy, giving credence to Mary Geiger's statement: "Thumber is a funny, funny man, and he writes funny, funny material."

Opening night Joanne and Chuck Campbell, Nancy and Maury Brasser, Ann and Tom Kelly, Melvin and Sara Smith and Jean and Bob Machus have reserved tables for the 7 p.m. dinner and 8:30 p.m. show.

Reservations may be made by calling Alvaro's at 549-2429.

BATON TWIRLERS and sorority convention delegates may seem like strange dorm mates, but that was the case recently at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

Three local members of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority were among the 350 delegates to the Theta's national leadership and officers conference who shared SMU dorm facilities for five days with a lively group of high school majorettes attending a summer workshop.

Jane Bowman, president of the University of Michigan Theta chapter Louise Simpson, alumnae district III president and Peggy Schimpke, college district president, met with national and district officers, delegates from 96 collegiate chapters, and representatives from their respective advisory boards.

Mrs. Simpson and Mrs. Schimpke will oversee District III sorority business at U of M. MSU, Albion and Western Ontario University.

Former college district president Gwen Straight of Birmingham is president of the Birmingham Alumnae Club.

Camp Oakland is Theta's local philanthropy, and the Institute of Local Operations in Wichita, Kan., is its national service project.

Alicia Gillette's newsletter: 642-8322 or 1030 Fairfax, Birmingham 48069.

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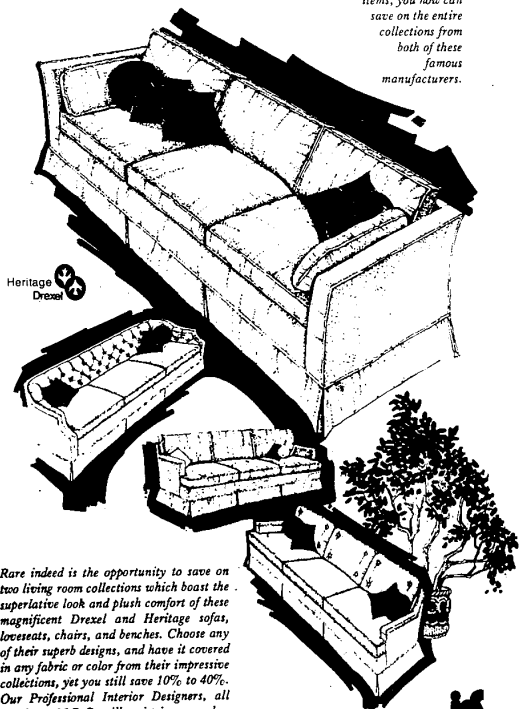
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