

'Stubborn cuss' wins PAL Invitational

Roger Maltbie, who calls himself a kind of stubborn cuss who likes to do things the way I see them, fired a course record 65 to place first among the professional golfers at the J.P. McCarthy Week PAL Invitational golf tournament July 20 in Bloomfield Hills.

Maltbie's score over the 5,827-yard Wabek Country Club course breaks a score of 66 set by Tom Shaw when he won the 1973 PAL tournament.

About 7,400 people attended the Tuesday event, the proceeds of which go to the Police Athletic League (PAL).

John Mahaffey and Doug Sanders finished in a tie for second place with a 68. They were followed by Marty Fleckman, Gary Galt, Tom Kite, Larry Ziegler, Terry Dill, and Hubert Green, each with one under par score of 69.

Maltbie, in his second year on the pro golf tour, is one of the new stars. "When I first came out last year," he recalled, "people didn't know me at all, but of course, they had no reason to know me. When I won twice last summer, neither tournament was on television and so a lot of people still didn't know much about Roger Maltbie."

"This year, though, I've had good national press and I've been on national television. Now people have been saying hello and wishing me good luck. I like that. My relationship with the galleries has been wonderful."

"When I first came out, I had a lot to prove to myself," Maltbie continued. "I didn't have an amateur record and so I had no way of knowing how good I was. I knew I had a good set of fundamentals and decided that I would try to become as good as I possibly could with what I had."

Maltbie won the Ed McMahon-Jaycee Quad Open and the Pleasant Valley Open in 1975. This year he has earned top honors in the Phoenix Open.

Now 24 years old, Maltbie gives his father credit for helping to develop his determination.

"Dad gave me a membership in the country club when I was in high school," Maltbie said. "I got money for golf balls, and every year, I had to work after school. Dad used to tell me, 'Nothing comes free in this world. You have to earn a year's if you want it had enough, you'll earn it.'"

"And I did," Maltbie added. "That might have been the chief factor in my own self-determination. I wanted to prove I could do it."

AMATEUR WINNERS of the tournament were the John Mahaffey group which scored a 54 best ball score over the 18 holes. Chip Imberger, Omar Sener, Leo Todorau, and Bob Kent were on that team.

Kenneth Zarley's group finished with a 54. They were Spil Korman, Irv Siegel, Bill Hughes, and Thomas Daley, of Southfield.

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Palmer amuses Wabek gallery

By JOHN BOZZO

A large part of the J.P. McCarthy Week PAL Invitational afternoon gallery had gathered around the tee box waiting for Arnold Palmer to arrive.

When he left the clubhouse area and walked down the wooden stairs to the tee, Palmer was greeted with a roar of applause that had been reserved for players like Jack Nicklaus in the morning round of play.

Every time the great player of the game, Palmer, walked his golf club and smiled at the fans in response to the enthusiastic greeting.

"Get a scorecard," he asked, turning to Greg Burns of Bloomfield Township who served as his caddy. "Oh, you know the distances and you're going to tell me—well OK."

Then a chorus of "Please" and a waving of scorecards started and Palmer went to the gallery and signed autographs. He was in keeping on signing autographs and joking with the crowd through the five hours it took to complete the 18 holes.

"HURRY UP and hit, someone on course," I've got to get back to work," someone's always got to be some where," Palmer responds.

Then he leaves a young boy seeking an autograph, saying "What do you want?"

As he signs the outstretched scorecard a woman from the gallery teases him. "You don't ask me what I want?" Palmer smiles and winks at the woman.

Another woman asks if he'll pose for a picture and Palmer agrees, asking, "Is there anything in particular you would like?" After a few clicks of the camera, the woman gratefully shakes his hand and returns to her vantage point on the tee.

A winner of eight major golf tournaments and a dominating player for 30 years, Palmer's tournament finishes may be lower but his popularity with the fans remains high.

However, there were those who chose to downgrade Palmer for one of his more recent poor performances.

When a jet returned overhead someone remarked, "There goes Arnie in his Lear jet—he failed to make the cut again."

This comment was ignored as Palmer teased what he said was a set of brand new golf clubs. He started off the new clubs in fine fashion with a birdie on the first hole.

Upon reaching the second hole, a 315-yard par four, Palmer sought and received advice on what club to tee off with. After hearing a variety of sugges-

tions, Palmer asked, "What did Mac-nagle hit?" Four different clubs were mentioned by members of the gallery. He finally used a two iron, and launched the ball to good position on the green and went on to par the hole.

The interaction continued as Palmer continued to sign autographs for the gallery. He signed the scorecard, and often waved and talked with the people in the gallery.

GEORGE PETRACCIO, a Southfield resident who plays the golf scramble for Palmer's five-some, said she was very happy to be in the Palmer group.

"I consider myself very lucky," she said. "He's a super person."

Thomas Maetz of Birmingham, was thrilled to be one of the amateurs in the Palmer five-some. Charles Adams, Gas Harman the State of Michigan lottery director, and Jim McNeal were also in the group.

"I find myself rooting more for him than myself or my teammates," Maetz said. "In those last two putts (birdie putts) on the first and second holes I was thinking he's gotta make it because you know what the crowd will do when he does."

AFTER WATCHING Palmer par the third and fourth holes, caddy Burns was still uncertain about what clubs to suggest, when asked for advice.

"I'm still apprehensive about 'club-bing' him because I'm not sure how he hits," he says five iron and I just shrug. I'm still guessing I'll take a couple more holes before I know for sure."

The gallery noisily began to move to the next fairway after Palmer holed his par putt on number five. They stopped after Palmer asked the folks to, please stay put for one minute while his team mates finished putting.

Which is better? Palmer asked his caddy at the start of the sixth tee. The front or the back nine?

Burns responded that par for the front was a one less than the back, and that the front is not as hilly as the back nine.

"Not as hilly—that's just what I want to hear," Palmer laughed.

Palmer's first bogey of the day came on the 64-yard par five, seventh hole. After much deliberation with the fans, Johnny Miller reached the green with two four-woods. "Someone offered," Palmer chose a one-iron. The tee shot was short, and skinned by some tree's. Palmer was unable to cut the dog leg on the hole.

He had to play his second shot toward the hole, and short, of the green. His approach fell in the sand at the front of the green. Picking out of the sand, Palmer missed a long par putt, and settled for a bogey six.

There were now 18 marshals, all wearing yellow golf hats, wearing autograph seekers behind the ropes stretching along the outside of the fairway. The marshals' jobs were often made more difficult by Palmer, who refused to let anyone come near to encourage the autograph seeking.

Many of the spectators greeted him with a friendly "Hi Arnie," as he walked down the fairway. Shouts like "You're still the greatest!" were often heard.

Palmer finished the first nine with two pars and began the second with a bogey, a birdie, two more pars, another bogey, and another birdie.

Throughout the round Palmer had not tired of joking with the spectators, and after finishing the 13th hole and every one with more autograph seekers by running past them up a hill to the 18th tee.

Rain began falling heavily during play on number 16. Even under the wet conditions, a fun mood prevailed. Palmer waved a Strath's beer can as some spectators overlooking the 18th green and every one had a good laugh when the gentleman carrying Palmer's umbrella slipped along the side of a hill. Palmer parred number 16 and 17.

"He's a delightful gentleman," Maetz said. "He charges everything. He always gets for the hole. He's a great guy to play golf with. He's a coach on up. I really enjoyed the round."

Palmer's grip slipped on his second shot on the 18th hole. He settled for a

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Reds down Blues

Farmington '9' nears loop title

The Farmington Reds, a modest baseball team which has dominated the Pontiac Class D Connie Mack League this summer, continued its outstanding season by whipping the Farmington Blues, 6-4, last Thursday night at Drake Park.

The victory lifted manager Jack Marston's Reds to 17-4 in Mack play. The Reds have only to win one of their remaining two games to be assured of the league title. "These kids have really spoiled Jack this summer," said Blues manager Bob Heath, whose team dropped to 6-9. "They've really played well for him."

Winning pitcher Mike Majors, a right-hander from Milford Lakeland High School, worked the whole game, over-coming a shaky start to record his 8th Mack victory. Majors, who will attend Cornell University on a football scholarship next fall, fanned five, walked five and allowed five hits, including only one during the last four innings.

The Reds, who had seven hits, broke open a two-all game by scoring on runs in the fourth inning. All six runs were scored after two were out. First baseman Bill Lowman delivered the big blow of the inning, a home-run, double. Lowman missed the home run on the drive when the ball bounced off a light tower and fell back on the field.

Kevin Kaseman and Dave Herberholz

were also hitting stars for the Reds. Kaseman knocked in a run with a long triple, and Herberholz had a double and a single to drive in another run.

The Blues' leadoff batter, Mark Purcell, went three for four at the plate. Teammate Greg Maltbie drove in two runs with a double. Losing pitcher Mark Bentley suffered from wideness in the four innings he worked. He gave up only four hits but he walked eight batters. Andy Poulos pitched the last three innings for the Blues.

Earlier last week, the Reds blasted Wad Lake Blues, 11-1, in a game played at Pontiac's Aaron Perry Park. Dan Marston and Kaseman each homered for the winners. Bob McKenna was the winning pitcher.

The Reds can wrap up the league crown by winning one of their last two games: a 5:30 p.m. contest on Monday, July 31 against Wad Lake Central at Aaron Perry Park, and a 5:30 p.m. Wednesday game against the second-place Pontiac Clippers (13-5), also at Perry Park.

The Blues play next on Monday against Rochester at Pontiac Northern High School. On the following Wednesday, the Blues and their black uniforms with a game against Rochester-Troy Kernels at North-ern. Both games begin at 5:30 p.m.

The Reds will host a post-season Connie Mack tournament week at Perry Park. In addition to Farmington, the tentative tournament field includes Livonia, Uxion, Wad Lake Western, Troy-Birmingham and Detroit. The winner of this journey will advance to the Marshall, Mich. Sectional. The sectional champion will play in the National Connie Mack Tournament in Farmington, N.J. in August.

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