

Thursday, July 15, 1982 O&E



Tam O'Shanter Country Club in West Bloomfield is the site this week of the 66th annual Women's Michigan Golf Association state

championship in which more than 125 golfers have entered.

photos by DICK KELLY staff photographer

State women golfers display 'long' faces over high scores

By Marty Budner
staff writer

Lisa Speaker and Meg Mallon — foes this year on the Big 10 women's golf circuit — had something in common Monday afternoon after their qualifying rounds in the 66th annual Women's Michigan Golf Association state championship.

Neither golfer was pleased with her score.

"There really wasn't any one thing," said Speaker, who finished her round with a score of 83. "The course played long, and I just had a very bad day."

Mallon was a bit more self-critical. "I was awful. . . it was a long day," she uttered after her consistent out-in scores of 43-43 for an 86 total.

As it turned out, both women, hoping

to gain the crown as Michigan's best woman golfer for 1982, finished among the top 16 in a field of 130 golfers to qualify for the tournament's championship flight. But Mallon had to overcome three other golfers in a sudden-death playoff later that afternoon to make the elite 16.

Those were typical comments of most golfers after concluding the par-73, 6,285-yard Tam O'Shanter course in West Bloomfield. Kathleen Teichert of St. John's and Speaker's teammate this year at Michigan State University, was the qualifying leader with a round of 76.

Joan Garety of Grand Rapids was the second-best qualifier with a round of 80. Pauli Boice, a seven-time state champion who was second last year to defending champion Elaine Crosby,

and Nina Spatafora, an ex-Spartan golfer, both chipped in at 81.

SPEAKER, a Livonia Bentley High School graduate, has participated in the state women's championships three times in the last four years. Her qualifying score included a 40 on the front nine and 43 on the back nine.

"The course was really long, and I wasn't hitting my mid-to-long range irons very well," said Speaker, who birdied the par-5, 412-yard sixth hole.

"But I was chipping well and that really helped me out."

Speaker, 22 years old, finished 30th this spring at the NCAA championships at Stanford University. She was third overall in the Big 10 championships, and she made the Big 10 all-star team.

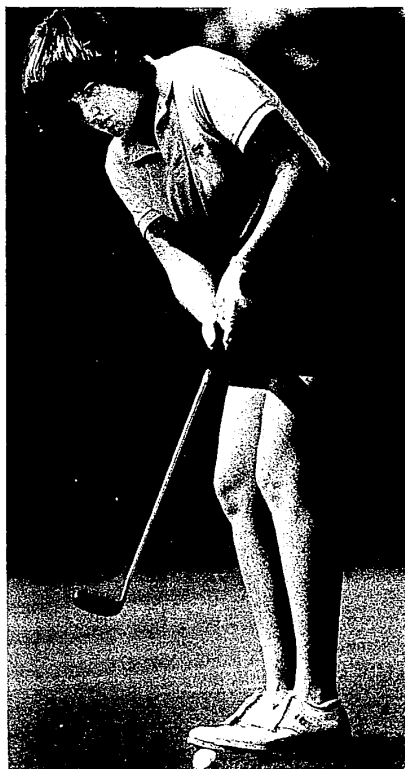
She is hoping to qualify this year for the United States Amateur Championships in August.

Although Mallon lives in Birmingham, she is only familiar with the front nine of the Tam O'Shanter course. She wasn't totally surprised by the course's length.

"It played long when I played the front nine once before," said Mallon, who graduated from Farmington Our Lady of Mercy High School in 1981.

"I just couldn't get my approach shots to hit the green, and when I did get there, all I did was go up and down the green," she said. "I just didn't hit the ball very well."

MALLON qualified for the championship flight last year when she made her debut in state championship play. This year, she defeated Janina Jacobs of Detroit, Trish Lapham of Farmington and Nat Gamble of Grosse Pointe.



Birmingham's Meg Mallon won a special playoff Monday to qualify for the championship flight of the state women's tournament.

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Marty Budner

Bravissimo!

World Cup '82 impressive

Mundial '82. Bravissimo! Excelente!

The World Cup — the globe's version of America's Super Bowl — is a month-long soccer (known as football everywhere but North America) extravaganza held every four years. Mundial '82 was hosted by various cities in Spain.

This year's tournament, won by an underdog Italian side, was probably one of the most spectacular ever. At least, that's the impression it left with most local soccer observers.

It was filled with drama (West Germany's scintillating sudden-death victory over France in the semifinals; ex-tyrant (Italy's 3-1 conquest of the West Germans in the championship game); tension (a draw between Poland and Russia); and alleged scandalous play (a low-scoring first-round game between Austria and West Germany that allowed the Austrians to advance into the second round instead of Algeria).

The tournament introduced one-name stars such as Zico (Brazil's magical striker), Rossi (the tournament's leading goal scorer) and Rummenigge (Europe's player of the year from the West German side). It also reacquainted Detroit soccer fans with a former Express soccer whiz named Trevor Francis who scored a couple goals for the English side.

But, interestingly enough, the exposure, not to mention the high caliber of play, of this year's tourney seemed to touch more Americans than ever before.

ABC, which last Sunday televised from Madrid a World Cup championship game live for the first time in the United States, estimated that more than two billion people across the world viewed Italy's third ever World Cup triumph.

That figure may or may not be inflated, but it gets the point across.

Soccer is by far the world's most popular sport. And since Americans were more tuned into the emotion and excitement generated by this year's tournament, it can only help the game's growth in the United States.

Here's what a few area soccer fans had to say about Mundial '82.

ROGER FAULKNER

Roger Faulkner was part owner of the original Detroit Express — the team that Trevor Francis once led to the North American Soccer League playoffs. He is now working as an agent at the Merrill Lynch office in Bloomfield Hills and does part-time work as color commentator for the Detroit Express team that now plays in the American Soccer League.

"Overall, the tournament was a tremendous boost for soccer in the United States," said Faulkner. "The quality of play was remarkable, and it was pleasing to hear Americans comment on the quality of play."

"ABC mentioned that (the World Cup tournament) was the second most important sporting event in the world only to the Olympic games. But that was incorrect. It is the major sporting event in the world — especially in terms of viewing populace."

"What's interesting about the game is that it gives off kind of a vicarious involvement for all the people of the competing countries, like they were playing the game themselves. The players know they just aren't playing the game, but that they are representing the country. The identity is tremendous."

PAUL SCIULUNA

Paul Sciuluna has played soccer in New York and Canada and now coaches the boys' and girls' varsity teams at Livonia Bentley High School. Sciuluna, originally from the island of Malta in the Mediterranean, is also coach of the Livonia Cardinals, the current under-14 state champions.

"American sportswriters and broadcasters seem to look at soccer as being dull," he said. "I think, from the American point of view, this tournament proved soccer can be exciting."

"I know my own kid is American born and bred, and he stayed at home to watch the World Cup games instead of playing baseball. He saw how the players were playing for the love of the sport. And, that's what sports should be all about. . . man's raw ability against another man — not big contracts."

BILL BUERGER

Bill Buerger, the newly appointed soccer coach at Rochester High School, has coached the Troy Fire soccer team for the past six years.

"I was impressed with the passing and the plays that were set up by each team," said Buerger. "I was particularly impressed with the fact that France would allow its sweeper-back to come up and score some plays. That kind of soccer is probably most outstanding."

"As the tournament progressed, people who had just a slight interest, or none at all, became more turned on to this year's tournament. That's basically because the television announcers would explain what was going on."

"I know my players watched the games and talked about them at our practices," he said. "It lifted their spirits. . . they would want to incorporate some of the plays they saw on TV into our team's play."

Don't get caught holding!

Tickets for all ten Lion home games go on sale Monday, July 19. Get your seats early and be part of the action at the Silverdome in '82.

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Clio: Michigan Trailways Bus Lines, 12154 N. Saginaw
Detroit: Sportsland USA, 1444 Michigan Avenue (One block east of Tiger Stadium)
Farmington Hills: Jim Hawkins' FanAttic, 28952 Orchard Lake Rd.
Grand Rapids: Herpolsheimers, 1 Montrose Avenue, N.W.
Jackson: L. H. Field Co., 201 W. Michigan
Lansing: Van Dervoorts, 1515 North Grand River
Port Huron: Smoker's Haven, 412 Huron
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REGULAR SEASON HOME GAMES			
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SEPT. 26	TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	(SUN.)	1:00 p.m.
OCT. 3	BALTIMORE COLTS	(SUN.)	1:00 p.m.
OCT. 17	ATLANTA FALCONS	(SUN.)	1:00 p.m.
NOV. 14	GREEN BAY PACKERS	(SUN.)	1:00 p.m.
NOV. 25	NEW YORK GIANTS	(THUR.)	12:30 p.m.
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out. Plan to join us at the Silverdome for all the exciting action of NFL football in 1982.

Season tickets are still available at \$125 each. Call the Lions ticket office at (313) 335-4151 for further details.

