

Sports

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(F11)

'Bear' claims crown

By Jim Toth
staff writer

What more could anyone associated with Oakland Hills ask for? Club members, golf enthusiasts and participating professionals wrapped up a week of memories Monday by watching one of the greatest golfers of all time share in a little history-making.

In only Jack Nicklaus form, the Golden Bear tamed the legendary "Monster" for at least one day, firing a course record-tying 65 to out-duel Chi Chi Rodriguez in an 18-hole playoff and walk away with the 1991 U.S. Senior Open Golf Championship.

The win marked the first time Nicklaus had won a tournament on the historic South Course.

"GOING BACK to 1961 (U.S. Open) I had a chance to win here, but didn't finish very well," said Nicklaus, holder of 20 major tournament titles. "I never had a chance or played well here since then."

"Oakland Hills has always been great tradition for the game of golf and I wanted to win here," Nicklaus added. "This was one of the best rounds of hitting the golf ball in a long, long time. Usually the times I play like this, it usually means something."

Nicklaus had a golden opportunity to shoot a six-under par 64 and have the course record all to himself, but an eight-foot par putt on No. 18 fell short of its mark.

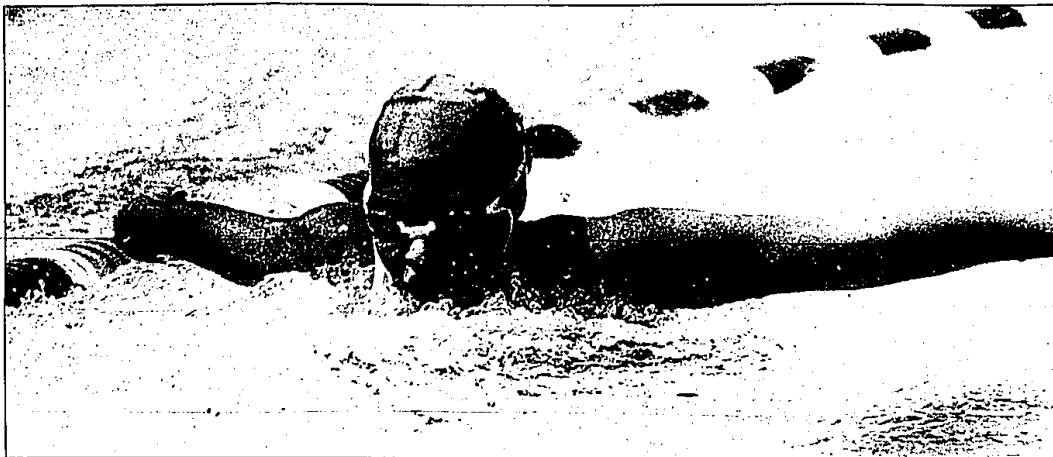
"I never think of course records, it's not important to me," Nicklaus said. "I just want to play well, win tournaments, and that's it."

Rodriguez, who provided smiles for spectators all week, finished four strokes behind Nicklaus with a 69. He said even though Nicklaus came out the winner, the real victory went to the game of golf.

"Golf showed what a great sport it is," Rodriguez said. "Kids could learn from us. There is no better role model for kids than Jack Nicklaus."

"I lost the tournament, but I won the hearts of the people. I had a lot of fun. The crowds here at Oakland Hills were very nice," Rodriguez summed up.

During the week-long event, attendance totaled 111,850. It was highlighted by Sunday's single-day best of 30,550. Nearly 10,000 turned out for Monday's soggy playoff round.



JOHN STORMZAND/staff photographer

Anne Marie Scania competes for Farmington Glen Athletic Club in the Northwest Suburban Swim League championships Sunday at Beech Woods

Park in Southfield. Woodside Athletic Club defeated rival Bloomfield Surf to retain the NSSL title while

Farmington Glen performed well enough to be promoted to the first division next season.



JOHN STORMZAND/staff photographer

Andrea Hoeflein of Farmington Hills strives for success in her event Sunday at the NSSL finals.

Woodside extends reign in NW Suburban League

By Mike Rosenbaum
staff writer

The expected battle between three-time defending Northwest Suburban Swim League champion Woodside Athletic Club and Bloomfield Surf Club, champions from 1977-87 and who placed second in each of the last three years, came down to the final events Sunday afternoon.

Woodside had an edge after Saturday's preliminary events, but emotions ran high among Surf followers, who sported a banner reading: "Surf — Regain the Reign," at Sunday's finals. Some Woodside supporters wore T-shirts which announced: "This team is rated R — reigning champs."

Under sunny skies at Beech Woods Park Sunday, the reign continued as Woodside beat Surf, 7:00-6:88.

Woodside coach Darin Abbasse termed Sunday's victory "especially nice" because the Sun Devils were seeded behind Surf entering Saturday's preliminaries.

"THEY HAD to make up at least 100 points . . . which they did," Abbasse said.

swimming

The top five teams from 1990 all retained their spots this year. Orchard Valley Swim Club won the final relay to beat Heart of the Hills Swim Club for third place, 571.5-562.5. Beachwoods Recreation Association again placed fifth with 524 points. Village Athletic Club improved from seventh last year to sixth, swapping places with Forest Hills Swim Club. Farmington Glen was eighth and will move up to the league's "A" Division next season, replacing ninth-place Kendallwood Club.

Abbasse said that in winning the meet the three previous years, "we have the experience now of knowing what it takes to go into the meet. . . it was a whole team effort this year."

But Abbasse particularly praised his younger swimmers, who did better than he expected.

"You never know what can happen with an eight-and-under (swimmer)," Abbasse said. "They just swam fantastic. We had kids that weren't even

seeded in the top 12 who finished in the top 12."

ONLY THE TOP 12 finishers in each event earned points for the team.

The meet was close from start to finish. Surf maintained a slight edge through the first half of the event and remained on top, 436-434, after 35 of 52 events. Woodside took the lead, 560-556, after all 46 individual events were completed.

Surf won the first relay — the mixed 100 freestyle 40-and-under (meaning that the ages of the four swimmers could total no more than 40 years) to take a two-point lead. But the Sun Devils moved back on top and grabbed firm control of the meet by placing second in the mixed 100 medley 40-and-under relay, in which Surf had failed to qualify. Woodside never lost its lead.

Surf coach Mike Rado said his team "did an outstanding job. We have no complaints about second place . . . We swam with a lot of heart and determination."

Eight individual meet records were tied or broken Sunday, five by

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Paulin shows all-star value

Tracy Thompson was a star among stars Saturday in the Michigan High School Softball Coaches Association All-Star Game.

Thompson, a Garden City High graduate, pitched three scoreless innings and delivered a run-scoring single as the White team beat the Blue, 6-0, in a nine-inning game played at Lansing's Ranney Park. After walking the first batter she faced in the seventh inning, Thompson allowed only one hit the rest of the game and helped secure the victory for the White.

Her two-out RBI single which scored Lacy Volz highlighted a three-run eighth inning and gave the White a 6-0 lead.

"I was taking it lightly and was there to have fun," said Thompson, who along with Garden City teammates Carolyn Shanks and Krystal

softball

Matesic, took home an all-star plaque from the game. "I started out (pitching) kind of wild, but I didn't feel any pressure."

The White team got solid pitching throughout, starting with three innings of one-hit ball thrown by Okemos' Beth Aulerich. Maureen Paulin, a Farmington Hills Mercy graduate who will play volleyball for Madonna University coach Jerry Abraham, allowed no hits from the fourth through sixth innings. Paulin also collected one of the four hits by the White team.

"It was a lot of fun playing with

people who were real good," Paulin said. "It's not like (the Blue team) didn't hit off me. The fielding was excellent. Nothing dropped."

The White team did not commit an error, while the Blue team had five. Three errors by the Blue in the first inning led to three White runs.

Shanks, the White team's leadoff batter, and Amy Miller both reached base after Blue errors. Peggy Darmer then laid down a sacrifice bunt that Blue pitcher Leslie Gavette fielded and threw wildly down the right-field line, scoring Shanks, Miller and Darmer for a 3-0 lead.

Livonia Ladywood's outfielder Andrea Crichton played for the Blue team, but high school teammate Kim Supron was unable to play because of an injury.

Sarcevich, Wukie on same side now

By Steve Kowaleki
staff writer

Blažo Sarcevich's goal Saturday will be to score touchdowns, not prevent them. Sarcevich, an all-state linebacker from Farmington Hills Harrison, will play tight end for the East team in the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association All-Star game at Michigan State University's Spartan Stadium.

PASS will televise the 1:35 p.m. game live. All tickets cost \$6. Sarcevich played tight end for Harrison, but he made more of an impression at linebacker with a school-record 299 tackles in his career. The East coaching staff, headed by Redford Blahor Borgess' Walt Bazylewicz, decided to move Sarcevich to tight end because of a shortage of players at that position.

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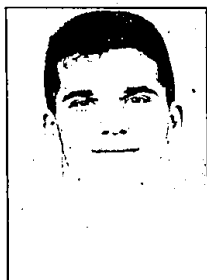
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