



## Golfers star in Big I

A pair of Farmington Hills golfers were the big winners Monday in the girls Independent Insurance Agents Junior Classic in Big Rapids.

Jennifer Borowicz won in the 18-hole state tournament and Cassie Jemison was second at Katke Golf Course on the Ferris State University campus.

Borowicz, who graduated last month from Mercy High School, shot par-72 and Jemison, who will be a senior at Harrison High School, was one stroke better than Mercy junior Erin Borowicz with a 76.

Borowicz and Jemison qualified to play in the Big I national tournament Aug. 15-20 at Northgate Country Club in Houston, Texas.

Jemison also was the runner-up last weekend at the two-day National Midwest Junior Tournament in Cleveland. She shot 80 and 78 at Seneca Golf Course.

Jemison attended a golf camp at Ferris State earlier this summer and credits that experience with changing her swing for the better and improving her mental outlook.

"I didn't really believe I could shoot in the 70s, but I'm more confident about my game," she said.

The Borowicz sisters also tied for first place in the state Junior Optimist tournament June 24 and will play in the national event today through Saturday in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Both have qualified for the 16-and-up Power Bilt Tournament of Champions Aug. 6-7 at Forest Akers Golf Course in East Lansing. To qualify a golfer has to place first or second in one of any six tour events.

Jennifer won Power Bilt tournaments at Emerald Vale (Cadillac) and Hidden Valley (Gaylord), finished second in three others and was fourth in another. Erin, who has played in three tournaments thus far, won at Black Bear.

Jennifer also won a 36-hole Ashworth Collegiate Tour event, shooting 71 and 73. The tour includes college players from Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio.

Erin, who caddied for her sister in that competition, was second and Jennifer fourth in the state Max-Fli tournament July 14-15 at Bedford Valley in Battle Creek.

## Long drive champions

There's still one chance left to win a trip to Mesquite, Nevada, and the ReMax National Long Drive Championship Oct. 20-23. But first things first, and first you've got to get to the district round of competition, which will be Sept. 25 in Hudson, Ohio.

Last Saturday in the first of two local sectional qualifiers at the Highland Golf Center in Highland, three golfers earned a spot in the district competition.

Canton's Karl Lindh was the winner in the Open Division with a drive of 333 yards, 1 foot, 9 inches; placing second was Al McFarland of Westland with a drive of 312 yards, one inch.

Paul Rigaby of Highland took top honors in the Senior Division (55-over) with a drive of 279 yards, 2 feet, 1 inch.

There will be another contest Aug. 14 at Highland Golf Center (located on Lone Tree, west of Milford and across from Milford High). A total of \$250,000 is up for grabs at the national event in October, with a \$75,000 first prize.

## Women's golf results

Nancy Wilke of Redford and Carol Farwell of Southfield each shot an 88 to share first flight low gross honors July 17 at the Women's Suburban Golf Association stop at Huron Mendoc.

Four others tied for second at 91 — Jo Ann McVicar (Livonia), Sandy Rivers (Rochester), Diane Wazney (Dearborn) and Pat Myers (Birmingham).

Low net in the first flight went to Lillian Vanderbrinker (Dearborn Heights), Mary Allen (Wayne) and Mary Gene Stefanec (Dearborn Heights) added 74s.

In the second flight, Pat Henke (Wayne) led the way with a 97, while Lori Wilson (Livonia), Jinny Valentine (Dearborn) and Bernie Evans (Franklin Village) tied for second at 106.

Dorothy Cody (Farmington Hills) won low net with a 71, and Mary Cunningham (Westland) was second with a 73.

# Dabco Tool takes Founders title



The annual Farmington Founders Festival softball tournament has a new champion this year. Dabco Tool defeated Vladimir's Sunday in the finals and took the title that belonged to Vellucci five of the past six years.

By DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER  
domear@thehomecomm.net

Nobody on the Dabco Tool softball team spoke of creating a dynasty like the one they eclipsed Sunday when the team won the annual Farmington Founders Festival tournament.

The Dabco Tool players were too happy celebrating their new role as 1993 champions after ending years of frustration as they watched Vellucci win five straight titles.

"We've been playing in this thing for 12 years; it's just good to finally win,"

said Dabco Tool pitcher Rich Fruitman, who was named the tournament's most valuable player by his teammates.

"We came up short every year. We'd always make it to Sunday and then lose to Vladimir's or Vellucci (which played under the Conspuware name this year)."

Dabco Tool was undefeated but lost the first game of the finals to Vladimir's, 10-9. But it rebounded with a 15-11 victory in the winner-take-all contest at Founders Park.

"The best finish we ever had was third, so it's great to finally come

through and win it," Dabco Tool player/manager Jeff Temple said. "It's the first time I've been on a championship team. To win the hometown tournament is a big thrill."

Dabco Tool defeated Sand's Lounge, Greene's and Vladimir's on Saturday and then Shamrocks in the winners bracket final Sunday while Vladimir's was fighting its way through the losers bracket, knocking out defending champion Vellucci along the way.

"It was still a rough road ahead with the heat and humidity," Vladimir's manager and tournament icon Mark McDonald said. "We had three more to get to the final to win it all."

Vladimir's defeated Shamrocks, 29-12, to earn the right to face Dabco Tool in the finals, but McDonald wished there had been a mercy rule in the losers bracket final.

"We had to play seven innings when the game was out of reach after the first inning," he said. "That played on our minds, because we were all gunning to get it done in five and play Dabco. That wore us down a little bit."

Vladimir's led all the way in the first game of the championship round, but Dabco Tool rallied with four runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to steal the momentum despite losing by a run, 10-9.

"We knew we could hit eventually," Temple said. "We were still up; we really thought we could take it. I think there was more pressure on them, because they had to beat us twice."

Dabco Tool started the second game with three runs in its first at-bat. Its lead grew to 7-0 in the third inning, and it doubled with a seven-run fourth.

Please see FOUNDERS, C6

## Security captures top prize

Lou Pirronello has taken several sandlot baseball teams to national tournaments, but until last weekend none came home a champion.

The Concealed Security 12-under Dodgers won the National Amateur Baseball Federation World Series in thrilling fashion in Sylvania, Ohio.

The Dodgers beat Mansfield, Ohio, 10-5, in the championship game on Saturday behind the pitching of Chris Rusin (Canton).

## BASEBALL

The players threw their gloves in the air like the Red Wings did with their gloves after winning the Stanley Cup, and managed to pick them up, too.

Pirronello said the closest any of his teams came in the past was a fourth-place showing last year at the Continental Amateur Baseball Association World Series.

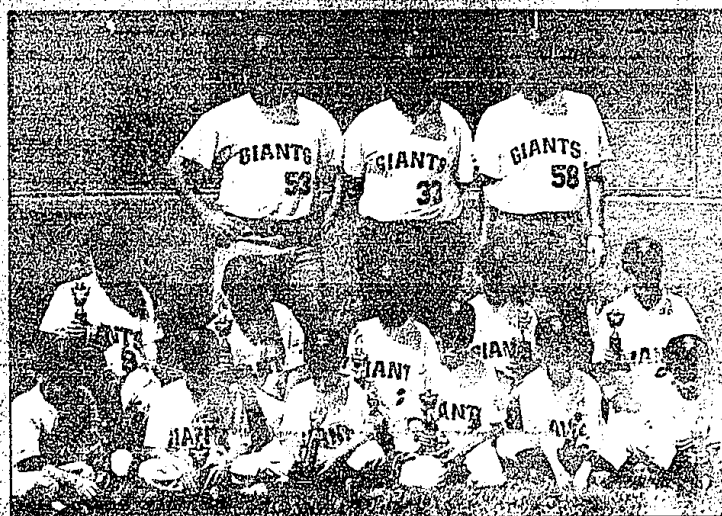
"It was a good celebration and I don't think anyone left anything behind," Pirronello said. "What made the whole thing happen was the cooperation of everyone, from players to coaches and parents."

The Dodgers, 66-13 overall after recording a 4-1 record at the national tournament, return to the CABA World Series, which begins Friday in Omaha, Neb.

Rusin, who had two pitching victories, struck out five in the championship game.

Jeff Richard (West Bloomfield), named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, had a double and one RBI.

## Giants are tournament champions



Tourney winners: The South Farmington Giants won their own All-Star Classic for 8-and-under teams July 10-11. Team members are (front row, left to right) Cole Duran, Michael Cleveland, Michael Crawford, Sean Berndt, James Chesney, John Rose, (middle row) Brian Grewe, Tyler Mitchell, David Kameron, Alex Ingersoll, Steven Pelletier, (back row) coach Mike Duran, manager Steve Pelletier and coach Andy Grewe. John Miller is not pictured. See C3.

Scott Szpyrka (Orchard Lake) had three hits and two RBI and finished with a tournament-best .733 batting average.

"Coach (Al) Shay dubbed him Mr. July," Pirronello said. "That's the World Series in a row he's picked his game up a notch, defensively and offensively. Hitting .733 against pitching

like that, your average usually goes down."

"Bill Szpyrka (Scott's father) spends endless hours giving those two batting practice. They're buddies and their success has to do with him working with them."

Rusin, Eric Drieselman (Garden City) and Ryan Shay (Garden City)

also collected two hits each.

Concealed scored all its runs in the first three innings, five in the first. The Dodgers earned their way into the final with a 10-9 win over Joliet, Ill., in the semifinals.

Richard had three hits and four RBI

Please see CONCEALED, C6

# This was real bear of an assignment



Reading Tim Nowicki's Nature Notes column about black bears in the Observer last week brought to mind an experience I once had with bears.

It's an old story that occurred 20 years ago this month but one I recall fondly and remember well.

Just a half year out of college, I was working as the sports editor of The Pioneer, a small daily newspaper in Big Rapids, which is about an hour north of Grand Rapids.

On a hot, July morning, I was at my desk when photographer Chris Mikula walked into the newsroom and asked if I wanted to go along that afternoon to investigate a report of bear sightings.

After lunch, we drove a half hour north to Reed City and west to a little town called Chase in Lake County.

When we arrived at Dan Palmer's summer cottage, I had an idea what it was like to be a pioneer. A single home stood in a clearing in the middle of thick woods and dense underbrush.

And there, staying a safe distance from a handful of humans, were two little cubs, just hanging around. Actually, there were three of them, but one hadn't been seen for a while.

Department of Natural Resources field biologist Fred Ignatowski estimated the age of the bears to be five to six months, their weight 15 to 20 pounds and their height 1 1/2 to two feet.

The bears had been seen in the area for several days, and the obvious question was "Where's mama bear?"

That was a real concern at first. We didn't know the full situation as we got out of the vehicle, and even a city kid like me knows female bears are extremely pro-



'Hey, buddy, no feeding the bears!': The photo is no forgery. That's a young Farmington sports editor Dan O'Meara feeding a real bear 20 years ago in western Michigan.

Please see O'MEARA, C2