

Polanski finishes 2nd in Michigan Open

BY BRAD EMONS
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Livonia's Steve Polanski was in the hunt once again at the Michigan Open.

But defending champion Scott Hebert tamed the Bear for the fourth year in a row at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa by holding off the hard-charging former Stevenson High standout.

Hebert, the Traverse City-area resident now living in Grand Rapids, bagged his fifth title in six years by holing out a 60-foot bunker shot on the 220-yard, par-3, No. 17.

Hebert took home the \$14,500 first prize with 14-under-four-round total of 274, including a 70 on the final day of play.

"I got lucky holing the shot, but whenever I am in a bunker I try to make the shot," Hebert said. "When you just try to get close, you don't seem to deliver. I could see that Steve was a little dejected, but man, he played good."

Polanski, a red-shirt sophomore at Texas Christian University, shot identical 66s for the final two rounds to finish two shots back for a total 12-under 276.

Polanski has been runner-up two years in a row to Hebert at the Michigan Open. He also placed third in 2000.

But he refuses to get down on himself, vowing: "I'll be back here for a lot of years, you can count on that."

The 21-year-old Polanski applauded Hebert for his efforts. "It was fun, I knew coming in what I could do," said Polanski, who was six shots back, but paired with Hebert in the final group. "Scott played well. It was well deserved."

Polanski, the top amateur four straight years at the Michigan Open, was on the front fringe of the green on No. 17 when Hebert fished his tee shot into the greenside bunker clinging to a one shot lead.

The savvy 35-year-old pro then pulled out the rabbit out of the hat.

"It was kind of heartbreaking," Polanski said. "But that's the way the ball bounces sometimes. I'll be fine."

Polanski shot a pair of 72s the first two days, but climbed his way nearly all the way back.

"I had six bogeys the first day," he said. "It was a more different course than usual. The golf course was wet and I had some bad lies in the rough. I was hitting good shots and making bogeys. I was a little discouraged, but I thought I played four solid rounds."

Polanski, the former state Class A individual medalist from Stevenson, was coming off the 91st Michigan Amateur the previous week where he reached the round of 16 in match play at Jackson Country Club.

He lost 2-and-1 to Andrew Ruthkoski of Muskegon.

"I played five rounds of competitive golf and I was 13-under par," said Polanski, who was the Michigan Amateur runner-up in 1998. "I thought I played well. I had a difficult draw, but the kid (Ruthkoski) beat me and played solid."

Polanski now takes a mini-break from his summer tournament schedule. He is scheduled to play in the Western Amateur before attempting to qualify Aug. 6 in Grand Rapids for the U.S. Amateur.

Meanwhile, he'll try and keep his game sharp while working as a golf camp instructor at Miles of Golf in Ann Arbor. Polanski will be working under his caddy for all four rounds during the Michigan Open, Dave Kendall, who is the head teaching professional.

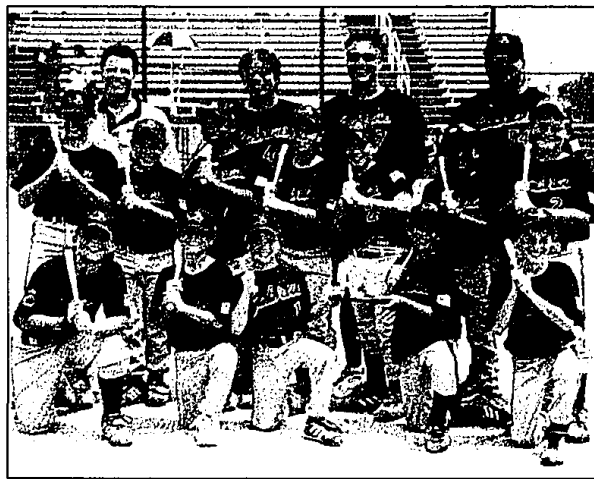
Although he is gifted with an impressive golf resume, Polanski found himself fighting for tournament playing time at TCU.

The Horned Frogs, coming off a seventh-place finish in the NCAA Tournament, lose three seniors to graduation.

"I felt I played well at school, I played solid all year," said the 2000 Northern Amateur champion. "TCU is one of the top golf schools in the country — we finished seventh this year (in the NCAA). You have to go out and qualify, and work your butt off every week."

"I could be playing every week for another school, but I think I'm getting mentally stronger and physically better at TCU."

Cobras are triple-crown winners



Tournament champs: The 10-and-under NFWB Cobras travel baseball team captured its third tournament title of the season June 23 by defeating the Anchor Bay Angels in the final game of the Battle Creek Mayor's Invitational, 13-8. Brett Lubanski hit .640 and Eric Glanz .590 to lead the offense. Mark Stanko won the deciding game in relief. The Cobras have a 34-7 record. The team members are (bottom row, left to right) Derek Thiel, Jordan Lieberman, Mark Feldman, Jake Moss, Andy Hoffenbacher, (middle row) Peter Harfholder, Stanko, Andrew Middlebrooks, Lubanski, Glanz, Todd Salamkovic, Aaron Roberts, (top row) assistant coach Terry Lieberman, manager Paul Lubanski, assistant coach Harry Glanz and associate manager Tim Roberts.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

CC DOUBLES DUO ALL-STATE

Redford-Detroit Catholic Central tennis players Paul Switz, a Farmington Hills resident, and Mark Fleszar were named to the Division I all-state team as doubles players by the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association, not honorable mentions as was previously reported.

JUNIOR GOLF TOUR RESULTS

■ Matt Malloure of Farmington Hills shot 89 to place fourth out of 32 golfers Tuesday in the Meijer Junior Players Tour 13-14 age group at Shenandoah Country Club in West Bloomfield.

Eddie Bellamy of Farmington was 10th out of 60 golfers in the 15-and-up division. Bellamy shot an 86. Vince McKeon of Farmington Hills was 18th (89) and Joe McKeon of Farmington Hills was 51st (101). Nikki Spicer of Farmington Hills was third (108) in the girls 13-14 competition, and Marisa Palanian of Farmington Hills was fifth (110) in the girls 15-and-up division.

■ Bryan Proven of Farmington Hills shot a two-day score of 158 (74-84) to finish 12th among 63 golfers in a Power-Bilt Junior Tour event June 25-26 at The Pohl Cat in Mount Pleasant.

SUMMER SWIMMING RESULTS

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN LEAGUE KENDALLWOOD CLUB 224 WOODBROOK HILLS 244

Thursday, June 27, at Kendallwood

Kendallwood double winners: Jill Fleck

(11-12 girls), 50 back, 39:28; 100 IM, 1:24:35; Lindsey Legacki (13-14 girls), 100 IM, 1:13:05; 50 fly, 32:23; Kanna DeSantis (11-12 girls), 50 free, 32:21; 50 fly, 40:73; Kanya Bachrouche (15-18 girls), 50 back, 35:15; 100 free, 1:06:73; Mohamed Bachrouche (15-18 boys), 50 back, 34:21; 50 fly, 29:66; Brad Smith (13-14 boys), 50 breast, 35:77; 50 free, 29:56; Kevin Ryan (15-18 boys), 100 free, 57:59; 100 IM, 1:07:76; Kelli Smith (8-U girls), 25 fly, 27:17; 25 breast, 25:78; All Lum (9-10 girls), 50 back, 36:28; 50 free, 34:82.

Kendallwood single winners: Zach DiGla (13-14 boys), 100 IM, 1:20:88; Kristen Wolff (15-18 girls), 50 breast, 39:34; Catherine Love (8-U girls), 25 back, 29:28; Kelli Warwood (9-10 girls), 50 breast, 48:56; David Haywood (11-12 boys), 100 IM, 1:35:51; Lauren Owens (13-14 girls), 50 breast, 39:29; Kristi Bendick (13-14 girls), 50 back, 34:65; Drew Womack (13-14 boys), 50 back, 35:21; Katie Fleck (15-18 girls), 100 IM, 1:16:45; Caryn Switz (13-14 girls), 50 free, 29:54; Sarah Switz (15-18 girls), 50 fly, 35:00.

Kendallwood relay winners: 40-year mixed 200 freestyle: Kanna DeSantis, Alison Lum, Charlotte Litchman, Kelli Warwood, 2:46:10.

52-year girls 200 medley: (Katty Bachrouche, Lauren Owens, Lindsey Legacki, Caryn Switz), 2:13:56 (club record).

52-year boys 200 medley: (Mike Lum, Eric Teith, Zach DiGla, Kevin Karoub), 2:37:77.

66-year girls 200 freestyle: (Sarah Switz, Katie Fleck, Chissy Fleck, Kristi Bendick), 2:03:07.

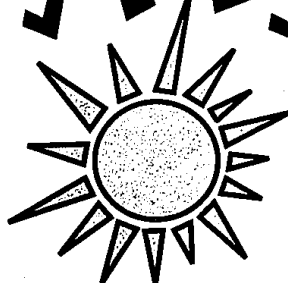
66-year boys 200 freestyle: (Tim Ryan, Mohamed Bachrouche, Mike Landsberg, Brad Smith), 1:52:11.

Woodbrooke double winners: Trevor Baker (11-12 boys), 50 back, 44:27; 50 fly, 41:31; Brook Heebner (8-U boys), 25 back, 21:87; 25 breast, 22:49; Michael Tetrick (9-10 boys), 50 fly, 41:09; 50 free, 36:91; Michael Sapich (11-12 boys), 50 free, 34:97; 50 breast, 48:62.

Woodbrooke single winners: Matt Newman (15-18 boys), 50 breast, 35:69; Gwen Get (9-10 girls), 50 fly, 41:56; Jason Muccioli (13-14 boys), 50 fly, 34:25; Derek Reed (8-U boys), 25 free, 21:82; Philip Robertson (9-10 boys), 50 breast, 52:32; Christopher Jones (8-U boys), 25 fly, 30:86; Michael Felice (9-10 boys), 50 back, 50:27; Mary Podasni (11-12 girls), 50 breast, 44:31.

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