

Competition tough on local golfers

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The effort was there, but the results did not necessarily reflect it for many of the Observerland golfers competing on the assorted tours.

At the Meijer Junior Players Tour stop at Tree Tops Resort in Gaylord Monday, the best Observerland finisher in the boys 15-and-over division was Matt Norscia of Livonia, who shot an 81 on the 6,313-yard, par-72 course to finish ninth.

Next best was Matt Kruczyanski of Westland, whose 87 placed him 27th in a field of 66. Bryce Tomas of Livonia was 35th with an 89.

In the girls 15-and-over division, Liz Lulek of Canton was ninth with a 104 on the 5,533-yard, par-72 course. Danielle Bickle of Canton was 11th with a 109 and Colleen Forte of Farmington Hills was 12th with a 141.

In the boys 13-14 division, Brian King of Livonia shot an 80 to finish eighth on a par-72 course measuring 5,820 yards. Adam Dubois of Farmington Hills was 11th with an 82, Tom Lucko of Livonia was 16th with an 85 and Matt Malloure of Farmington Hills was 19th with an 86.

In the boys 10-12 division, Austin Stillman of Livonia shot 100 to finish 12th on the par-72, 5,368-yard course. Ross Gerulis of Canton shot 102, finishing 13th, and Matthew Charley of Livonia shot 124 and took 18th.

At the two-day Power-Bilt Junior Tour event at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire Monday and Tuesday, Phillip Marsh of Canton was the best Observerland finisher in the 16-and-over division with a 77-85/162 on the 6,625-yard, par-72 course. Lee Bibicoff of Farmington Hills shot a 90-87/177.

On Wednesday in the Midwest Collegiate Amateur Series at Warren Golf Course at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind., Lindsey Densmore of Farmington Hills shot 90-86/176 on the 6,054-yard, par-71 course to place 16th in the women's division.

In the men's division, Nikos Markellos of Redford shot 75-77/162 on the 6,744-yard, par-71 course to finish 13th.

And at the Meijer Junior Players Tour event Wednesday at the L.E. Kaufman in Wyoming, Ross Gerulis of Canton finished seventh in the boys 10-12 division with a 98 on a par-72 course measuring 5,149 yards.

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The win was the Cobras' 300th since the team was organized in 1994.

"We've had incredible success, winning many tournaments, league titles, state championships and even a national championship," manager Petry said.

"More amazingly we have done it without recruiting superstars. We just have 13 guys who come ready to play every day."

The Cobras won their fourth straight game, defeating the Boys of Summer from Ohio, 6-3. Lentz yielded only two earned runs to earn the victory.

Stanton flexed his muscle at the plate, going 3-for-3 with three RBI. His big hit was a three-run homer in the sixth inning. Pickens contributed two hits.

The Cobras dropped their next game to the Pittsburgh River Bandits but still qualified for the semifinals.

Stanton was the star of that game, too. He pitched a complete game and went 3-for-3 with his second home run as NFWB edged the Columbus (Ohio) Cobras, 6-5.

"He's a great ballplayer and competitor," coach Randy Rodriguez said of Stanton. "We were glad he joined our team for the tournament and wish him the best of luck as he reports to the Michigan State University football team next week."

The Cobras came up short in the championship game against the A. Green Eagles from Michigan, losing 6-5.

Also contributing to the Cobras' overall tournament success were Neil Sternberg, Bryon Smith and Evan Rodriguez.

NFWB has an overall record of 18-6 as it continues to battle for a league title in the Little Caesars Baseball Federation.

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Farmington picked up two more runs in the fifth when Dickey hit a bases-loaded single with Kish, Joe James and Droste aboard.

Clarkston got its second run in the top of the sixth. In the bottom half, Kish followed a single by Volpe with a two-run homer.

Post 346 could've ended the tournament with a win Saturday. If it was to lose that game, the tournament would continue Sunday afternoon at Farmington High. Coach Wally Christensen's ballclub, which improved its overall record to 16-6-1, won its first tournament game Thursday by forfeit over Auburn Hills, which had only eight players.

In a regular-season game Wednesday, Farmington tied visiting Chief Pontiac, 5-5. The game was stopped after seven innings at 9 p.m. due to encroaching darkness.

Chief Pontiac, one of the top three teams in the league and one that qualified for the Babe Ruth tourney, needed four runs, two of which were earned, in the seventh to tie. Post 346, which scored all five runs in the fifth inning, had five hits and received seven walks. Picard had two hits; Volpe hit a two-run double; Droste drove in a run with a fielder's choice and Kish doubled home another run.

FHHA mini-mite champs



The No. 1 team: The Mighty Ducks are the Farmington Hills Hockey Association mini-mite champions for 2002. The team members are (front row, left to right) Trevor Roberts, Joey Kolley, Marc Nahat, Adam Findlay, Zac Massa, Matthew Jenkin, Jenna Schneider, (middle row) Andrew Stellon, Steven Roberts, Blake Freeman, Shane Taylor, Mark Prokes, Cameron Collins, Matthew Zinkosky, (back row) Jim Roberts, Ken Haag, Steve Prokes and Larry Massa.

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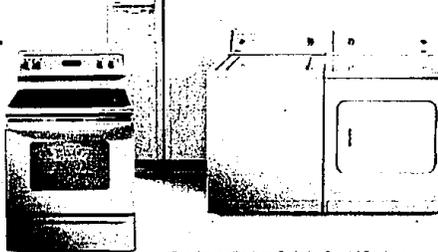
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