

Sidelines



Mercy alumna Meg Mallon became a star on the LPGA Tour.

Mallon Golf Outing

Mercy High School alumna and professional golfer Meg Mallon will spend Monday, July 29, at Walnut Creek Country Club in South Lyon for Mercy's annual golf outing fundraiser.

Mallon will be formally inducted into the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame at this year's event.

The induction ceremony took place May 19 at Indianwood Golf and Country Club, but Mallon was unable to attend. Sara Wold, secretary of the Michigan Golf Foundation, will be on hand to bestow the honor on Mallon.

"With hundreds of golf courses and thousands of golfers in Michigan, the hall of fame should stand as a symbol of excellence for golf," Dick Light, chairman of the hall of fame committee, said.

Mallon, a 16-year veteran of the LPGA Tour, has posted 13 career wins, including three major championships. During the LPGA's 50th anniversary in 2001, she was recognized as one of the LPGA's top 50 players and leaders.

The 12th Annual Mercy High School Meg Mallon Golf Outing includes 18 holes of golf, lunch, cocktails, dinner and prizes.

There will be a hole-in-one contest, too.

For golf outing reservations, hole sponsorships or other information, call Nadine Maynard at (248) 476-8922.

1-day hockey clinics

In addition to its week-long summer programs at various locations throughout the Detroit area, Suburban Hockey will offer one-day preseason clinics at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills on Wednesday, Aug. 21, and the Onyx/Rochester Ice Arena on Thursday, Aug. 22.

The Quick N Fast clinic is scheduled for 10 a.m. to noon. Shoot to Score noon to 2 p.m. and Learn to Check 2-4 p.m.

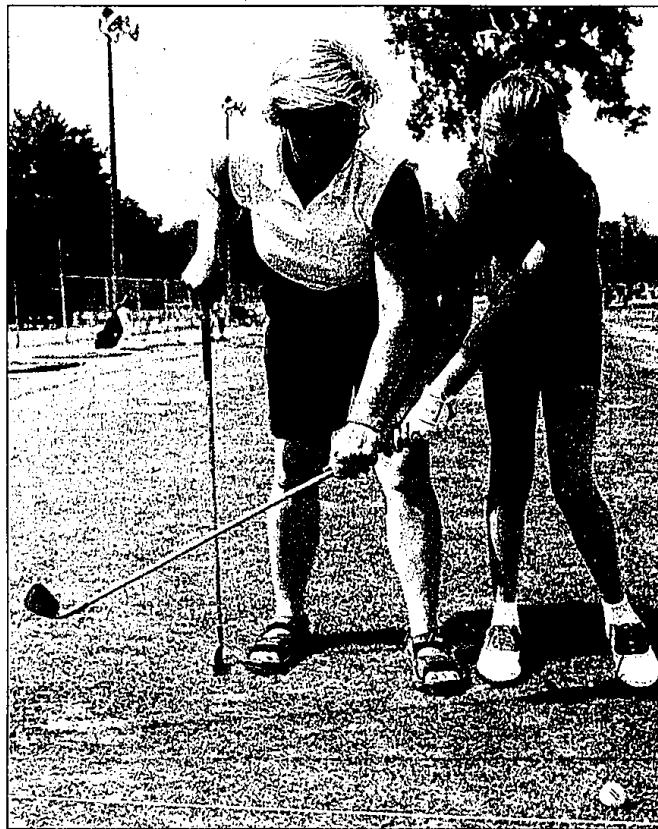
The first two clinics are for ages 6 and older. Learn to Check for ages 11-14.

Each program is limited to 32 players.

The participants will be grouped according to skill and experience level.

For more information or to register for any of the clinics, call Suburban Hockey at (248) 478-1600 or visit www.suburbanhockey.com on the Internet.

Young golfers swing for the greens



PGA pro Terri Anthony-Ryan supplies some club-swinging pointers to 14-year-old Nikki Spicer of Farmington.

JERRY ZOLINSKY | ECCENTRIC

Farmington's Spicer among best players at junior camp

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

It didn't take long for youngsters at last week's Junior Golf Camp in Southfield to realize hitting balls at the driving range is a bit different than trying to connect on the first tee.

If they didn't, PGA apprentices and instructors such as Andy Nisbet and Gary Hall were at Beech Woods Golf Course for a subtle reminder. But that's OK and all part of the learning process.

"Remember, it's not baseball," said Nisbet to 10-year-old Matthew Smith of Franklin Village. "We don't pick up our foot when we swing."

Smith sliced it into some trees on the right side of the first hole of scrambles play, which followed a morning of hitting balls at the driving range and practicing their putting.

Nisbet, Hall and other instructors each brought a group of four young golfers to the actual course for the scrambles play.

(In scrambles, designed to help novices get through the course more quickly, each person hits the ball; then the second shot originates from where the longest first shot landed.)

Hall, like the other instructors who are part of PGA professional Terri Anthony-Ryan's teaching staff, then helped 14-year-old Rebecca Seitz of Lathrup Village get set up at the red women's tee.

Unfortunately, she topped it. But, fortunately, the ball skipped down the center of the fairway.

"At least it went in a straight line," noted Hall, instrumental in helping set up the five-day program at Beech Woods for boys and girls who are serious about learning the sport.

According to Seitz, getting in the swing as far as fundamentals is necessary, because "everybody in my family plays. I didn't play ever before, so I'm learning everything."

Hall's group included Smith, Seitz, Kirsten Jordan and Mike Houston. Instructor Nisbet offered his aforementioned advice to Smith while waiting in the wings for the opening foursome to tee off.

Also new to the game is Southfield resident Jordan, 15. "I want to get better at it. I want to improve my chipping," she said.

Yet another member of Hall's group was 15-year-

PLEASE SEE GOLF, C2

Blues win age 11 title at Chelsea

The 11-year-old South Farmington Blues followed up their USSSA state championship with another tournament title.

The Blues won five straight games July 12-14 to capture the Chelsea Mid-Summer Classic trophy.

South Farmington started by beating the Clarkston River Dawgs, 10-0, as Brian Grewe pitched a four-hit shutout in a game shortened to four innings by the mercy rule.

The Blues defeated the Novi Heat in five innings, 27-5. Jacob Gudeman, John Miller and Cameron Fowler had three hits each and Jim Dexter two.

The Milan Diamond Dawgs were next up, and the Blues came away with a 10-7 win. Tyler Mitchell had two hits and eight other players contributed one hit each in a well-balanced attack.

Dan Tamaraglio pitched five strong innings to earn the victory, and Steven Pelletier struck out five of the six batters he faced in relief while shutting the door on Milan.

In the semifinals, the Blues played a good Sylvania (Ohio) Mavericks team, which entered the game with a 39-7 record.

South Farmington managed to gain a 4-3 victory, however. Fowler pitched a complete game, allowing only four hits while striking out 10.

PLEASE SEE BLUES, C2

Cobras capture NFWB Classic crown

After getting past a tough opponent in the first game, the 17-year-old NFWB Cobras had an open road to the NFWB Summer Classic Tournament baseball title.

The Cobras coasted to victory in their last four games to finish undefeated in the 18-and-under division July 13-14.

In the tournament opener, NFWB edged Hartland, 5-4.

Dan Lentz earned his fifth win of the season with relief help from Andy Wingert.

The big hit of the game was an inside-the-park home run by speedy center fielder

Brendon Rosenbergh, who had two RBI on the play.

The Cobras whipped Grand Rapids Travel in their second game, 9-1. Dan Graham struck out 12 batters while only giving up one hit.

Doug Pickens paced the offense, going 3-for-4 with a home run and five RBI. Ben Darga and Sam Grossman also contributed two hits apiece.

The Cobras qualified for the semifinals by defeating the Thornhill (Ontario) Reds, 10-1.

Left-hander Matt Petry dominated the Reds to earn

his fifth victory of the season, too.

Cleanup hitter Kevin Zerbo went 3-for-3 with three RBI and scored three runs. Pickens had two hits and two RBI, and he scored two runs.

In the semifinal game, the Cobras earned a come-from-behind win over the 18-year-old Lombard Lightning from the Chicago area, 14-9.

NFWB faced a 6-0 deficit in the fourth inning when it

scored six runs to take the lead. The big hit in the rally was a bases-loaded double by Graham.

The Cobras scored six more in the fifth inning. Zerbo was 3-for-4 with four RBI and scored two runs. Pickens hit his second home run of the tournament in the sixth, scoring two runs and putting the game out of reach.

Every batter had at least one hit for the Cobras. Ben Darga was the winning pitcher with the hard-throwing Wingert finishing up in relief.

NFWB coasted to an 8-0 victory over the 17-year-old Lombard Lightning in the

PLEASE SEE COBRAS, C3

Diamonds lose 2 but can still win title

BY DAN O'MEARA
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Hills Diamonds will have to play a makeup game Tuesday night to determine who will be the North Division of the Girls Incredible Fastpitch Softball League.

The game became a necessity when the first-place Diamonds dropped a doubleheader Thursday to the visiting Northville Broncos at North Farmington High School, 10-6 and 8-3.

The Broncos finished the regular season with a 12-3-1 record and gained a half-game advantage over the Diamonds, who are 11-3-1.

If the Diamonds win the makeup game against the Farmington Hills Hornets, they will tie for the division title and win the tiebreaker with the Broncos. The Diamonds



BILL BRESLER | OBSERVER

Rachel Abruzzo delivers a pitch for the Diamonds, who can still gain a share of the division title with a win Tuesday.

PLEASE SEE SOFTBALL, C3

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