

NOCELLA

FROM PAGE B1

Noella and the others in his region were invited to the Columbus, Ohio, for an orientation program on Memorial Day weekend.

The staff members were fitted for clubs, received an assortment of (free) Nike goods, played golf at two country clubs and visited an architectural firm specializing in course construction.

"They gave us golf bags, Nike irons, drivers, fairway woods, putters, balls, shirts, shorts, shoes - everything we needed to walk out the door ready to play," Noella said.

"It took several weeks for the clubs to be tailor-made for Noella, and the equipment recently began arriving at his home."

"It's super neat; it's like Christmas all the time, because stuff keeps showing up at the door," he said.

Noella wants his staff members to provide monthly feedback on his Web site, but Noella has been doing it weekly.

His report includes who he played golf with, where he played, what clubs he used, what he liked best, how the clubs reacted with the Nike golf balls, etc.

He has tried four different golf balls, including the new One, which Tiger Woods has used.

"We had the balls before they were on sale," Noella said. "Only Tiger and us had them. We're using stuff before it's introduced to the public."

That's pretty cool."

Noella said he likes the Nike pro-combo irons the best. The club head is specially weighted and causes the golfer to strike the ball straight and true every time, according to Noella.

"They want us to be Nike golf ambassadors," he said. "They wanted to get people who really love golf and go from there, hoping we would show to other golfers what they have to offer."

"They're saying, 'Here, test this and let us know what you think. If you like it, tell everybody. If you don't like it, tell us and what we can do about it.'"

"It's a neat program. Out of this huge company, only 88 of us are giving opinions on what we think."

Noella wanted golfers who travel and play in a wide geographical area to give the equipment the greatest exposure. That's why it sought golfers with single-digit handicaps who often play outside their home states.

"They know, if you play once a week, you can get a single-digit handicap playing the same course over and over," Noella said.

"If you play 10 rounds somewhere else, if you spend money to play outside your state, then you're a serious golfer, and that's what they wanted - a serious golfer."

The program lasts throughout the current golf season. In the fall, Nike will bring the 88 staff members together for a season-ending tournament in Pinehurst, N.C.

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Area decathlete takes 3rd in USA meet

BY BRAD EXAMS
STAFF WRITER

The U.S. is trying to make resurgence in the men's decathlon and Livonia native Pat Treck apparently doesn't want to miss out on all the fun.

In a meet where Tom Pappas established himself as the No. 2 decathlete in American history and a threat to become No. 1 in the world, Treck also made a name for himself June 21-22 at the USA Track and Field Championships held in Palo Alto, Calif., when he took third with a personal best 8,275 points, beating his previous mark by 234 points.

Treck also earned a trip to the World Championships in Paris, scheduled for late August. Pappas, meanwhile, broke Dan O'Brien's championship record and leaped to No. 2 on the all-time U.S. list with 8,784 points, crushing his personal best of 8,585. Pappas also passed Bruce Jenner (8,634), Steve Fritz (8,644), Chris Huffins (8,694) and Dave Johnson (8,727) as the top

TRACK & FIELD

scoring American decathletes in history.

Runner-up Bryan Clay also had a career day as well, beating his personal best by 200 points (8,492), ranking him third in the world so far this year. Number one Roman Sebrle of the Czech Republic, who remains slightly ahead of Pappas, scored 8,607 in a meet three weeks ago.

On Tuesday, Treck, the Franklin High grad and former Big Ten Track and Field Athlete of the Year from Michigan State was flying home from his training base in San Luis Obispo, Calif., to take a much-deserved week off following a grueling two-day event, which ended Sunday night with the 1,500-meter run at Stanford University.

Among the 10 events, Treck's personal bests in the high jump (6 feet, 9.75 inches), shot put (50-10.5) and long jump (24-2.5).

"I knew I was capable in the long jump, but the high jump was a big breakthrough," said

Treck, a member of the World's Greatest Athletes Decathlon Club. "I've done 6-5 in practice and my hamstring started to grab and get a little fatigued."

"I think I could have scored a few more points, but maybe I was not ready enough because I didn't eat the right foods and didn't hydrate well enough for the two weeks leading up."

"But the long jump, discus and high jump were events I tried to concentrate on, so I'm pleased."

Treck's specialty, the pole vault, was somewhat disappointing.

The former state prep record holder and NCAA runner-up who cleared 16-8 this year indoors, settled for a second-place tie with Pappas (17-0.5) after passing at 17-4.5 and missing at 17-8.5.

Among his other performances included 10.9 in the 100; 49.26 in the 400; 1:22.10 in the 800; 1:57.18 in the 110 hurdles; 1:51.6 in the 400-meter relay; and 4:37.25 in the 1,500 run.

Treck was comfortably in third place after Saturday's first day with 4,336 points.

"We had a bad wind for the discus and head-wind for the pole vault," he said. "The vault I was just tired and I had the hamstring problem."

"The Stanford track is not as fast and the wind tends to shift a lot. Plus, we competed in the heat of the day. But I was glad to have the score I did. I knew I could still score a lot of points. The 1,500 basically was to just finish the race and get a good score."

Stephen Moore placed fourth overall with 8,010 while Kip Javrin and David Lemen scored 7,918 and 7,809, respectively. There were a total of 17 competitors.

Treck will return to California to train and prepare for the World Championships.

"I want to maintain my level in some of the events and try and improve in the running events like the 400 and 1,500 where I'll do some distance and road work," he said.

With the Olympics just one year away in Athens, Greece, Treck has put himself in position to make the U.S. team.

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CASTINE

FROM PAGE B1

In his voice. "I was telling some of the older kids, I remember the first day I saw him bat. We were playing U of

D, and he just laced a single into the gap. He's just a good, solid all-around ball player."

Following the Eagles' 12-6 championship victory over the Grand Rapids Catholic Central on June 14, at C.O. Brown Stadium in Battle Creek, the curly-haired, left-handed Castine - who ripped three scorches in three at-bats - at least reacted like a rookie.

"It's incredible and I don't think it's sunk in yet," he said with a broad smile. "I just can't believe I can call myself a state champion from now until the end of my life. I am a state champion, it doesn't feel like it yet. I'm sure it will eventually."

With Castine's future in athletics at St. Mary's apparently just as bright as his recent past, he gave a tip of the bill of

his cap to his parents, John and Peggy, who got him started with solid values and a work ethic to match.

"I think, well, I was raised by my parents and they do a great job," Jon said.

But with his parents behind him all the way, he also began playing baseball at an early age.

"I started at T-ball and I've played competitively all my life," young Castine said. "I started at travel ball the first year that I could and I just kind of got used to it."

Also helping him quickly adjust to the bright spotlight of a state championship game was the fact he played on the St. Mary's varsity hockey team as a freshman.

It was something duly noted

by Willis.

"He also was on varsity hockey team as a freshman, and that helps him get a feel for what it's like to be part of an upperclassman team," said Willis.

The coach, and older players on the varsity, know talent when they see it, however.

"The kids at the beginning of the year told me we needed to pull the trigger on him (bring him up) and get him up on our squad," Willis said. "We worked a little bit with him all year and it paid off."

It did in a championship way.

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WIN

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the last four holes in even par to win." Ackerman said. "The way the wind was blowing that's not easy on this course."

In the sudden-death playoff,

Ackerman made a bogey five while Snyder made a double-bogey six.

Ackerman, who in 1975 was the last amateur to win the Michigan Open, is the second-oldest player to win the tournament. Other area golfers at the Michigan Open included

Stephen Polanski (Livonia), sixth, 290; Albert Kahn of Bloomfield Hills Country Club and Matt Seppanen of Rochester Hills tied 18th, 293; Jon Levy (Bloomfield Hills), 17th, 294; Frederick Stamey (Ringham Farms), 35th, 298; Greg Davies of Bloomfield, 68th, 308.

SOCCER

FROM PAGE B1

eral quality scoring chances before Kevin Taylor got the crowd on its feet.

Taylor headed in a perfect curving pass from midfielder Erik Nelson to tie the game at 1-1 with 15:03 left in the second half.

Just over six minutes later, the youngest player on the team showed why he's also among the team's most dynamic players.

Simon Ormekanda, a 2002 graduate of Rochester Adams High School now at Penn State, maneuvered the ball away from Long Island goalkeeper Billy Gatti, wheeled and scored from

the left side of the box. His goal sent the crowd of 1,105 into a frenzy, and he took part by sprinting near the stands, twirling his removed jersey in his hand in celebration. Ryan Rzepka picked up an assist on the game-winning goal.

"Simon is very mature for an 18-year-old player," Gemmell said. "He's got one heck of a future."

The Bucks were the more aggressive team in the game, coming up in the first half and after the Riders scored their only goal.

Long Island played more in the Bucks' end in the first 10 minutes of the second half, but the Bucks later regained control of the ball and the upper hand on scoring opportunities.

"Our entire back line played well," Gemmell said. "They had to deal with a handful tonight. We defended one-on-one very well, and Pete (Drubay) made the big saves in the first half when we needed him."

Drubay, the Bucks goalkeeper from the University of Michigan, made three point-blank saves against the Riders and played very under control throughout the game. The Bucks outshot the Riders 13-8 in the contest, with Drubay coming up with four saves.

The Bucks hit the road for a three-game stretch starting Saturday, July 5, with a contest at Columbus.

The team's next scheduled home game is Saturday, July 12, against Kalamazoo at Canton High School.

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