

Farmington CC's Roth heads for college

Golfer ends fine junior career

By CORINNE ABATT
Michigan lost one of its most promising young golfers last week when Jeff Roth left to begin his freshman year at the University of Arizona.

The loss may not be permanent. Roth, a 17-year-old Plymouth-Salem High School graduate who plays out of the Farmington Country Club, may return to area links for tournaments during his summer vacations.

Roth will turn 18 next month, and that birthday will bring an end to a brilliant junior tournament career. Seventeen is the top age for junior tournament players.

Roth played in his last junior tourney two days before leaving for Tucson and the University of Arizona. That was the State Junior Tournament at Port Huron, and Roth was leading when it was called because of rain. Roth won the tourney in 1973 and finished second last year.

In this year's tourney, he shot a disappointing 77, but then picked up four strokes to take the lead when play was called.

Two weeks ago Roth was in Nashville, Tenn. for the U.S. Junior championships. He qualified for match play, but was finally beaten by the tournament champion. He was the junior district champion this year and last. He also played in the 1974 Michigan Open and made the cut.

"I HAVEN'T PLAYED in as many national tournaments as I would have liked," Roth said. "I played in the North and South America this spring at Pinehurst, N.C. I qualified for match play and felt pretty good about that."

The International Junior Tournament at Coral Gables, Fla. last December was a really good tournament for me. I had an 80 on the first round, but was low on the last three with a 72, 70 and 71. That brought me up to ninth place. The greens gave me trouble in the first round, but I had them figured out by the next day."

Roth has crammed a lot of golf into his summers since first playing on a par-three course at Wausau, Wis. at the age of eight.

"I didn't like golf that much when I was little," he said. "My dad watched it on TV, but I thought it was boring. Dad had a set of clubs and we went out to play. I think it cost 25 cents for nine holes."

"Then pretty soon we had about 30 kids who liked to play. We'd ride our bikes with our clubs on our shoulders, and we'd play before and after school every day. The kids, mostly fourth, fifth and sixth graders, came out in herds to play."

Roth's family moved to Plymouth six years ago, and Jeff continued to improve his game. He captained Plymouth-Salem's golf team for the past two years leading the Hawks to two regional and Suburban Eight league titles, as well as the State Class A championship in his junior year.

Mental discipline is an important part of Roth's game. The ability to figure out their odds through while playing is one of the qualities which separates the would-bes from the tournament champs, he said.

"SEE, GOLF IS more mental than physical. Anybody with a good build can hit the ball."

"But if a golfer doesn't have it upstairs—if he starts yelling, throws his clubs, gets down on himself—then he's not going to score well."

Roth is a golf fan as well as a player. His favorite is Jack Nicklaus. During the recent Police Athletic League (PAL) Tournament at Whitefish, he followed Lee Trevino and Johnny Miller and caught J.C. Shead whenever possible.

"They were exciting players to watch," Roth said.

As he talked about his tournaments and his scores, Roth said that he must have sounded rather boastful. He said that he didn't want to leave that impression. It's just that he likes to play and he likes to play well.

Roth plans to major in business administration while at the University of Arizona on a golf scholarship.

"If I'm good enough, I'd like to turn pro someday," he said. "But that's a long way away."



Jeff Roth gets in some practice at the Farmington Country Club

Old Farm swimmers dominate Tri-City meet



An official checks times at the Tri-City League meet.

By TOM BAER
Old Farm, a swimming team composed of youngsters from a Farmington subdivision, scored 682 team points to win its second-straight Tri-City League Swimming meet last Thursday at Southfield's Beacon Square pool.

Runner up Beacon Square scored 565 points. Farmington Country Club had 500 and West Bloomfield Shennandoah Country Club was last with 410.

"Personally, I didn't think we had much chance of winning the meet simply because we had so many kids missing and on vacations," said Beacon Square coach Sheldon Stern. "One of those meets was really close and was decided by disqualifications."

Old Farm, coached by Rick Rappiche, had a 5-1 dual meet record to go with the league-meet victory. Old Farm swimmers won 21 of the meet's 28 events in the girls' seven-and-eight-year age group. Old Farm's Ann Evans won the 25-yard breaststroke (22.1) and the 25-yard freestyle (17.1).

Old Farm girls dominated the 11- and 12 events. Joann Harrigan won the 50 freestyle (1:31.2) and the 50 butterfly (1:34.8). Linda Stevens took the 50 backstroke (1:40.1), while Kathy Weir topped the 50 breaststroke (1:49.1).

Beacon Square had a winner in Liz Ronayne, who finished the 100-yard individual medley for 15-17-year-old girls in 1:38.8. In the 10-and-14 group, Beacon Square's Linda Michaels won the 50 breaststroke in 38.3. Another Southfield swimmer, Jerry Weineck, won the 13-and-14 50 breaststroke in 38.5.

Farmington Country Club's 48-year (combined age) 100-yard freestyle relay won with a 1:02.3 clocking. The team consists of Scott Knoll, Ronald Brooks, David Virgin and Mike Berlich. Shennandoah's Mark Witenburg was

a big winner in the nine-and-10 group. He won the 25 backstroke (1:17.7), the 25 freestyle (1:17.7) and the 25 butterfly (1:17.1).

Some 200 youngsters participated in the league meet.

Team Points—Farmington Old Farm 682 points, Southfield Beacon Square 565, Farmington Country Club 500, West Bloomfield Shennandoah Country Club 410.

Event Winners—Boys

- Seven and Eight—50-yard Backstroke, Tim Liu (Shennandoah) :38.2; 25 Freestyle, Scott Knoll (Farmington CC) :38.8.
- Nine and 10—50 Backstroke, Mark Witenburg (Shennandoah) :41.7; 25 Breaststroke, Tom Harrigan (Old Farm) :51.2; 25 Freestyle, Mark Witenburg (Shennandoah) :47.7; 25 Butterfly, Mark Witenburg (Shennandoah) :47.1.
- 11 and 12—50 Backstroke, Fred Berg (Old Farm) :51.6; 50 Freestyle, David Virgin (Farmington CC) :52.3; 50 Butterfly, Mark Witenburg (Shennandoah) :41.1; 50 Breaststroke, John Ronayne (Beacon Square) :52.4.
- 13 and 14—50 Backstroke, Mike Wright (Old Farm) :51.2; 50 Freestyle, Rich Brownell (Old Farm) :51.2; 50 Butterfly, Mike Wright (Old Farm) :51.4; 50 Breaststroke, Jerry Weineck (Beacon Square) :52.1.
- 15 to 17—100 Individual Medley, Steve Payne (Shennandoah) :1:38.8; 50 Freestyle, Scott Page (Beacon Square) :51.5.

8-year 100 Freestyle Relay—Old Farm (K. Wright, A. Steverson, K. Keller, D. Howard) :1:02.9; 55-year 200 Medley Relay—Old Farm (K. Wright, K. Feder, J. Harrigan, L. Stevens) :2:23.2; 84-year 200 Freestyle Relay—Old Farm (D. Height, K. Herron, K. Gerano, D. Stevens) :2:02.4.

Swimmer qualifies for Jr. Olympics

Lisa Akerman of Southfield was a participant in the swimming competition at the Junior Olympic Nationals held Aug. 8-10 in Itaska, N.Y. Miss Akerman, who will be a senior at Southfield-Lathrup High, qualified for the Junior Olympics by swimming the 200-meter backstroke in 2:37.2 during the Long Course Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) meet in Southfield last month.

At the Junior Olympics, she finished the 200 back in 2:40.2—slightly slower than her qualifying time, but still pleasing to her coach, Bob Harding. "I was satisfied with her performance," said Harding, who coached Miss Akerman on the Southfield Swim Club, an AAU team. "She didn't go faster than she did in Southfield. In fact, she went a little slower. I told her to swim the race so that she could go two seconds faster than she did in Southfield."

rup a girls' swimming team, was forced to stop swimming earlier this year because of injuries.

"Lisa was out for six months," Harding said. "She'd developed some tendonitis in her shoulder, and the doctor ordered her out of the water from January until just last June."

"She didn't even have time to get into shape for the Long Course meet, so just qualifying for the Junior Olympics was quite an achievement for her."

Miss Akerman also was part of the Southfield Swim Club's 400-meter medley relay, which qualified for the Junior Olympics with a 4:50.2 clocking at the Southfield Long Course meet. The rest of the relay included Debbie Sposito, Linda Saxton and Kathy Koken.

The relay never competed in Itaska, however, because two of the girls were unable to make the trip. The Junior Olympic swimming competition was held in an Itaska municipal pool. Most of the other events were held at Cornell University.

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