



Tip of the cap

Why is this man smiling? You'd be smiling too if you just won the first-ever Worst Avid Golfer Tournament in Jacksonville, Fla. Angelo Spagnolo, the winner, hams it up after chipping into a hole in the rough of the ninth fairway. The tournament was sponsored by *Golf Digest* magazine. (UPI)

After 257 strokes, Spagnola's worst

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The gang that couldn't shoot straight fought long and hard for the title, but it was Angelo Spagnolo — 257 strokes and 60 lost balls later — who finally was named America's Worst Avid Golfer. Along with the dubious honor came the muted hero worship of Spagnolo's 7-year-old son, Don. "I play a little Putt-Putt," Don said. "I play better... as bad as he's doing." Spagnolo, 31, a grocery store manager from Fayette City, Pa., took 257 strokes to round the par 72 Tournament Players Club course Wednesday in a competition sponsored by *Golf Digest* magazine. He said it was the 17th hole that nailed the title for him. "I just came unglued on 17," he said. He took 66 strokes, 27 of them sending balls into the lake, before course officials told him to forget it. The hole is par 3. There was a big hum in my head on 17. I kept hearing my son saying 'Dad' and laughing," said Spagnolo, whose victory gets him a crystal trophy, and a tacky green-plaid sports jacket. America's Worst Avid Golfer tournament at the difficult course in this north Florida community near Jacksonville was designed to

show that golf can be fun even if you end up with a score that looks like your telephone number. "The golf course is just terribly tough for a person who can't shoot straight," Jay Fitzgerald, president of *Golf Digest*, said of the four competitors his magazine chose from 627 people nominated by readers. Candidates had to be men of reasonable physical ability who play at least 21 rounds of golf a year. The best round of the four bad golfers was turned in by Kelly Ireland, 42, a Tyler, Texas, lawyer, with a comparatively respectable 179. "It's better to be the best of the worst than the worst of the worst," he said. The other players were Jack Pufford, 48, a restaurateur from Moline, Ill., who shot 208, and Joel Mosser, 45, a stockbroker from Aurora, Colo., whose total was 192. The game lasted just over seven hours. Spagnolo's title-winning score was even a personal best, or worst. His previous game high was a 163. Other statistics tallied by the officials: 102 balls lost in the water, 124 penalty shots and 17 whiffs.

Golf needs superstar

ATLANTA (AP) — Tom Kite says professional golf has one glaring need. We need a superstar badly. There will be sooner or later, but we're just going through a spell right now where no one's really dominating. Kite said Wednesday before beginning defense of his title in the \$500,000 Georgia-Pacific Atlanta Golf Classic today. The Atlanta event is the 25th on the 1985 tour, which already has seen 19 different players win tournaments with only five owning two titles this year. Tom Watson, who has been the PGA Player of the Year for six of the last eight years, hasn't won at all in 1985. Watson won six tournaments in 1980, but hasn't claimed more than three titles in any year since. Kite says the reason no one has broken out of the pack is because there are so many outstanding young players on tour now. "Players are just getting bigger, stronger and better," he said. Nine of the season's winners are in the 156-man field for the four-day competition over the hilly 7,008-yard, par 72 Atlanta Country Club course, including one of the two-time winners — Lanny Wadkins, who captured two of the year's first three tournaments. Wadkins ranks as one of the favorites along with Kite, who won the MONY-Tournament of Champions seven weeks ago and claimed the 1984 Atlanta event with a 19-under-par 269 total. "I don't think the scores will be

as low this year because the rains make the course play a little longer," Kite said. "I look for 14 to 16 under to win the tournament." Other 1985 winners in the field are Mark McCumber, Fuzzy Zoeller, Raymond Floyd, Bob Eastwood, Corey Pavin, Hale Irwin and Roger Maltbie. Leading money winner Curtis Strange, Watson and Andy North, who won the U.S. Open last week, are among the pros bypassing this tournament. The three foreign players who finished one shot behind North in the Open are in the field — Dave Barr of Canada, Denis Watson of South Africa and Tze-Chung Chen of Taiwan. Chen appeared to have the Open in his grasp after building a four-shot lead going into the final round. His game fell apart when he took a quadruple-bogey on the fifth hole, once striking the ball twice with one swing. The double strike happened to him again in the Atlanta Pro-Am on Wednesday, costing him a bogey 4. "Last week is gone," Chen said Wednesday. "This is Atlanta week. I really forgot about last weekend and I don't want to think about it." Chen said he was pleased to finish second in the Open because it assured him an exemption for next year. "And, I'm just the second Far Eastern player to finish second in the U.S. Open," he said. Isao Aoki of Japan was the runner-up in the 1980 U.S. Open.

Weber tourney has unbelievable growth

Harold Weber remembers eight years ago as if it was just yesterday. Back in 1977 the WSFW (FM 99.3, AM 1110) sports director thought to himself, "Why shouldn't I get involved in something local that will be fun and will raise money for a good cause?" That "something" turned out to be a golf tournament.

"That first year I called up some of my closest friends and said, 'Come on out, we'll have some fun,'" Weber recalls. "I begged and borrowed." He finally coerced 32 of his buddies into playing the first annual WS-Harold Weber Invitational at Silver Creek Golf Course in Waterloo. The tourney raised \$150, which was given to the March of Dimes. My, how times have changed. When next Saturday's ninth annual event is staged, the tourney will have grown to six times its original size. A record 192 golfers will tee it up, making it what Weber is touting as the "largest single day golf tournament in the entire state."

That claim hasn't been verified, but Weber says, "I believe you're number one until someone proves you wrong."

More important than the field's size, though, is the amount of money raised for the benefiting charity. From the original \$150 raised in '77, that amount has grown to last year's record \$4,900. For the past four years, the money has been donated to Camp Oneyawa, a camp for handicapped children located in Ovid.

This year's proceeds also will go to the camp, which has benefited by the total of \$11,900 over the past four years. Last year's \$4,900 represented 16 percent of the camp's operating budget for the year.

"For just a gimmick idea to turn out as successful as it has is just mind-boggling," Weber said. "I never had any visions of its being this big; I've pinched myself to make sure it's true."

Most of the money is raised through a raffle. The prizes in the raffle were donated by Philips ECC (TV), Papa Ralph's (banquet for 10), Dick DeNard (vacuum cleaner) and Silver Creek (golf certificate).

The tourney's participants will attend a banquet at Club 86 after the event, during which the 1985



Mike Cutillo

Digging Divots

donation will be announced along with the winner of the coveted "H. Weber Loser's Award" (awarded for "feats unnamed," namely getting mad, throwing clubs, etc.). Mike Hryzak has been the overall winner of the event for five years running.

Weber also had a special bit of praise for his organizing committee, which includes his wife Mary, Reg DeRue, Dick DeNard, Greg Cotterill, Dave Chubb, Mike Milella, Joannie Densmore, Carol King and Chris Andrews. He also sounded a note of gratitude to Ron, Jean and Joe Cosentino, proprietors of Silver Creek.

Big Oak notes

Bruce Ridley was a hot captain in a pair of nine-hole Early Bird scrambles Friday morning at Big Oak. Ridley's team of Clint Rice, Bob Loomis and Pete Bodine won for the first nine holes with a 4-under-par 31. On the second nine, it was Ridley again with Rice, Jack Benedict and Jeff Nielsen winning in 5-under.

On Saturday, it was Jim Samson's turn. He captained the victorious team of Jim Blanchard, Ron McNeil Jr. and Sadie Logue to a 4-under-par victory in the first nine-hole scramble. He was the winning captain again on the second nine holes with a team of Blanchard, Gail Emerson and Jim Foster as they finished 3-under-par.

Also last week, Ridley notched an eagle on the par-4, 300-yard fourth hole. He drove to within four feet of the cup and then dropped the putt.

Sunday is the course's first annual member-guest. Golfers can sign up for the event right up until 11:30 a.m. Sunday.

Father-Son at Geneva

Geneva CC held a Father-Son tournament which ended Sunday with the team of Covey and Jason Windsor (Geneva) on top with a low gross of 69.

Don Sr. and Don Bero Jr. won the low net with a 56 while the teams of Bob Sr. and Bob Jr. Ritter, Peter and Paul D'Amico and Bob and Danny Howard tied for second at 58.

There was also some hot shooting at the club last week as John Fordon sank a 200-yard shot for an eagle on the par-4, 307-yard ninth hole. Then Don McArthur managed a hole-in-one on the par-3, 139-yard No. 3.

Wayne Hills tourneys

Wayne Hills CC held its Captain and Crew tournament Sunday and the team of Pete Case, Joe Hadden, Howard Graham and Art Bittel took top honors with a 61.

Tony Patanzo, Paul Byork, Rudy Sangiacomo and Joe Lopez were second, winning a playoff against Ron Vitticore, Rick Youngman, Max Clingerman and Dwight Geismann.

Applications are being accepted until tomorrow to play in Wednesday's Wayne Association for Retarded Children (WARC) tournament. For information, contact Bill Patterson at 946-4521.

Seneca Falls ladies

A ladies member-guest tournament was held Friday at Seneca Falls CC and the team of Vi Piscitelli and Celia Bonetti took top honors with a 69. Four strokes back in second place were Margaret Hadley and Rose Francis.

The club will decide its men's club champion in match play over the next two weekends.

Clifton Springs tourney

Over 120 golfers played in Saturday's Couples Invitational at Clifton Springs CC.

There was a first-place tie at 54 between the teams of Harvey Miller-Georgia Alford, Joanne Miller-Paul Alford and Dick Tobias-Wendy DePorter, Al DePorter-Bev Tobias.

Second place went to a team from Phelps, Stan Shannon-Pat Faust and Nickie Shannon-George Faust teamed up for a 55.

Bonavista leagues

The Clubhouse Four leads the

Thursday Night League at Bonavista with 124 points. The Par Poopers follow with 114½.

Last week, the low team net went to the Divots with a 154. They are Stu McWhorter, Buzz Haines, Ray Preston and Chuck Snyder. Casey Stengle, Jim Tyler and McWhorter tied for low gross with 42s, Stengle had the low net among low handicappers (35) while Dave Griffith and Pete Odomirok had the low net among high handicappers (36).

Brian Preston, Don Henderson and Harold Keel won closest-to-the-pin honors.

In the Mixed League, Joe Oliverio-Betty Licak and Bill Butler-Mary Unger lead with 41½ points. Close behind are Chuck Snyder-Lou Snyder and Bill Gates-Gerry Gates with 40½.

Bill Gates had the low men's net (32) last week and Terry Vatter had the low women's net (35).

Silver Creek women

Ann Faiola and Jo Piazza teamed to win a Tuesday morning women's member-guest at Silver Creek in Waterloo.

Winged Pheasant cups

John Debesis won the men's Final Cup match last week 2-1 over Howard Welkley.

The women's final between Gladys Dragon and Sandy Remington will be played July 6.

TRIVIA — Answers last week: 1) Patty Berg; 2) Mickey Wright; 3) Kathy Whitworth.

This week: 1) Who won the first Masters tourney by a single stroke over Craig Wood in 1934? 2) Who shot a record 271 on the Augusta National Course in 1965 to win the Masters, nine strokes ahead of Arnold Palmer and Gary Player? 3) What 1966 Masters champ failed to make the cut in 1967?

KNOW THE RULES — Answer last week: According to rule 16-1 (h) of the USGA Rules of Golf, "When any part of the ball overhangs the edge of the hole, the player is allowed enough time to reach the hole without unreasonable delay and an additional 10 seconds to determine whether the ball is at rest." If you take longer than that, it's a two-stroke penalty.

This week: Your putt hits an opponents' ball, which lies on the green, and knocks it into the cup. What happens to both players' balls?

Tired Alice Miller looks forward to rest

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A "pretty tired" Alice Miller is looking forward to next week when she can get away from the pressure of being the leading money winner on the Ladies Professional Golf Association tour. "This is my fifth week in a row," said Miller, the only three-time winner this year. "By all rights, I should be dropping with exhaustion." Instead, she's the favorite in the \$250,000 Mayflower Classic, which began a four-day run today at the 6,203-yard, par-72 Country Club of Indianapolis.

A victory and the \$37,500 top prize would give the 29-year-old from Marysville, Calif., the LPGA record for official earnings in a season. JoAnne Carner set the mark of \$310,399 in 1982. Miller has earned \$280,750 this year.

"I'm trying not to think of JoAnne's record. I want to keep playing well, do the same things I've been doing. If I do that, the record will take care of itself," Miller said.

Her success this year has brought some changes.

"Before, people wouldn't ask me for an autograph until I'd come out of the scoring tent," she said. "Now when I come to register, people are asking for it. That wasn't true until the last couple of months."

But she says she still hears some people joking about, "Alice Who?" "There a little more demand for me now, which cuts into my free time, but that's a nice problem. I have no regrets about the situation," she said.

Her golf game puts her in front of the camera, but the former Arizona State golfer likes being on the other side of the lens.

"I like to do nature photography. It has been sort of an escape. Until recently I didn't travel with my camera equipment, but now I'm traveling in a motor home and am able to bring it along. Hopefully, that will give me a nice diversion away from the golf course."

More than 100 pros will be challenging Miller, but the tournament won't have a defending champion for the third consecutive year. Last year's winner, Ayako Okamoto of Japan, withdrew because of back problems. Last

year, physical problems prevented Lauren Howe from defending her title and the previous year Sally Little was sidelined with knee problems.

Okamoto, the winner of last year's Mazda LPGA series, carded a 7-under-par 281 here in 1984 and finished two strokes ahead of Judy Clark and Donna White. But the course has been toughened this year with the 13th hole extended 21 yards to 181 and No. 18 stretched from 350 to 400 yards.

"You have to keep the ball in play off the tee because it can be a tight golf course, with the rough and the trees," said Miller, who has finished seventh or higher 12 times in her 17 starts this year. "You want to drive the ball pretty well — not long so much, just straight."

"You have to be a good putter because those greens can get pretty treacherous as they get faster."

Nancy Lopez, Pat Bradley, Amy Alcott, Patty Sheehan and Beth Daniel are among the golfers skipping the tournament.

Sports in Brief

TENNIS BRISTOL, England (AP) — Top-seeded Henri Leconte of France, second-seeded American Terry Moor and No. 3 Tim Wilkison, also of the United States, advanced to the final 16 of the \$105,000 West of England Tennis Tournament with straight-set victories. The top three proved to be the exception rather than the rule among seeded players, however, as the ninth through 14th seeds all were beaten, including American Ken Flach, who fell to Briton Jeremy Bates.

EASTBOURNE, England (AP) — Martina Navratilova continued her pre-Wimbledon tune-up with a 6-1, 7-6 victory over Alycia Moulton to reach the quarterfinals of the \$150,000 Eastbourne women's grass court championships. Navratilova will play 14th-seeded Bettina Bunge of West Germany, who beat Dianne Balestrat of Australia 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.

HOCKEY National Hockey League NEW YORK RANGERS — Named Ted Sator head coach PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Signed Per-Erik Elund, center

ing the tournament.

"I don't pay attention to who is entered in the tournament," Miller said. "Nancy is not here and that's good for me. I'm tired, but keyed up for this week."

The field includes past winners like Little, Debbie Austin and Jane Blalock. Miller and Blalock, who won in 1978 when the tournament was held at the Harbour Trees course in nearby Noblesville, are among five participants who have recorded at least one victory this year. That group also includes Betsy King, Bonnie Lauer and Jan Stephenson.

Crosby Pro-Am to move

MACON, Ga. (AP) — The Bing Crosby National Pro-Am is moving to North Carolina next year, and preliminary plans call for amateur teams from each state to compete for nearly \$5 million in prize money.

According to Kathryn Crosby, the prize money from the unusual tournament format will benefit charities in the player's home states, said Harley Bowers, sports editor for the Macon Telegraph and News, in a column published Wednesday.

He reported that Mrs. Crosby is completing plans for the tournament with Ben Langella, a bank executive in the San Francisco suburb of Millbrae, and William Sullivan, the executor of the Crosby estate.

Langella said estimates of the amount of money that will be raised for the charities run to "at least \$5 million." A cable television company has offered \$1 million for TV rights with the possibility that all four days of the event would be televised, the newspaper said.

The trio discussed plans for the tournament last week in the Crosby home in Hillsborough, a suburb of San Francisco, and the official announcement of the tournament's format is expected later this summer.

The tournament is moving from Monterey peninsula and Pebble Beach to Bermuda Run Country Club, just outside Winston-Salem, N.C. Mrs. Crosby, the widow of

"At this point of the tour, there's probably any one of 30 girls who could win a tournament," said Miller. "I usually think that any one of the top 50 (on the money-list) can win. People think it's just a few players that are the favorites, but that's not true anymore. I think the depth of the tour has become such that the player that gets the hot hand is right in the hunt."

The list of those battling Miller here also includes Clark, White, Muffin Spencer-Devlin, 1984 Rookie of the Year Julie Inkster and Penny Hammel, who tops this year's rookie list in earnings.

Bing Crosby, initiated the move after she claimed Professional Golfers' Association officials were trying to commercialize the tournament.

The Bermuda Run course was built in the early 1970s. It presently has only 18 holes, but owner Frank Schilagi, who says he has a contract to host the new Crosby on a permanent basis, said that another nine holes are being constructed and will be ready for the tournament.

PGA professionals will not be permitted to play in the first tournament, which is tentatively scheduled for June 5-8, 1986.

Following her split with the PGA over AT&T's co-sponsorship of the old Crosby tournament, Mrs. Crosby said she did not want professionals in the new tournament. The PGA then said it would not release its pros to play in the new Crosby tournament.

Mrs. Crosby said the governor in each state would select the four-man amateur teams.

In addition to the the amateur teams, the contestants will include movie, television, sports and political celebrities, and the heads of many of the nation's major companies. There will also be celebrity announcers at each hole.

Other plans include industries bidding to raise their company flags at certain greens, with the money raised from that effort going to the charity total.

