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GOLF

Dobbs claims Phila. Open championship

By Mayer Brandschain
Special to The Inquirer

Frank Dobbs, the hottest player on the Philadelphia PGA circuit, captured the Philadelphia Open Golf Championship by defeating a field of 60 pros and amateurs with a 5-under par, 36-hole score of 139 yesterday at the Cedarbrook Country Club.

After a morning round of par 36-36—72, Dobbs, 30, who aspires to qualify for the PGA tour, eagled the 509-yard second hole and birdied six other holes for a 5-under-par afternoon round of 33-34—67 to win $2,600 from the $13,920 purse.

The top finishers

Frank Dobbs, Spring-Ford	72-67—139
Jay Friedman, Meadowlands	70-71—141
David Roberts, Cedarbrook	72-69—141
Greg Farrow, Burlington	71-70—141
Gary Hardin, Northampton	72-69—141
a-Jay Sigel, Aronimink	70-72—142
Todd Anderson, Wilmington	72-70—142
Gene Feger, Overbrook	70-72—142
a-Blaise Gross, Brandywine	71-72—143
Dale Liesken, Wilmington	74-71—145
Bob Shuey, Mayapple	73-72—145
Brian Kelly, Ingleside	74-71—145
a-Tim Carter, Valley Run	74-71—145
P.J. Sabatini, Crow	74-71—145
a-Roc Iley, Cedarbrook	73-73—146
Jim Massaro, Aronimink	73-73—146
Base Glasco, Pine Valley	75-72—147
a-Andy Thompson, Overbrook	72-75—147
a-Rob Saurese, Phila. Cricket	72-75—147
a-Robin McCool, Saucon Valley	75-72—147
Dennis Miller, Trenton	71-77—148
Chris Anderson, Bidermann	77-71—148
Dave Callender, Scarmon	74-74—148
Miguel Barron, Waynesborough	75-73—148
a-Chris Lange, Overbrook	73-75—148
John Kellogg, Radley Run	72-77—149
Don DeAngelis, Plymouth	76-73—149
a-amateur	

Phila. Women's Amateur

Terry Perry, a one-time mini-tour player reinstated as an amateur, advanced to the semifinals of the 95th Philadelphia Women's Amateur Golf Championship by rallying from 1-down at the end of nine holes to defeat Catherine Gitzendanner, the medalist from Whitford, 2 and 1, on Wilmington Country Club's North Course.

Defending champion Leslie Smith of Tavistock, Liz Haines of Merion and Ann Laughlin of Riverton earned the other semifinal places.

The results

Championship flight quarterfinals: Leslie Smith, Tavistock, def. Bonnie George, Philmont, 3 and 2; Liz Haines, Merion, def. Margaret Young, Merion, 3 and 2; Terry Perry, Reinstated, def. Catherine Gitzendanner, Whitford, 2 and 1; Ann Laughlin, Riverton, def. Kim Varracchio, Rolling Green, 5 and 4.

First flight quarterfinals: Janice Lewis, Springhaven, def. MaryJo McWilliams, Llanerch, 2 and 1; Nancy Gallagher, Radley Run, def. Alexandra Walling, Gulph Mills, 3 and 2; Sheila Selby, Huntingdon Valley, def. Sue Byerly, Indian Valley, 3 and 2; Lynne Kirkpatrick, Old York Road, def. Carol Fager, Rolling Green, 8 and 7.

Second flight quarterfinals: Susan Tremblay, Concord, def. Penny Kiken, Links, 1 up; Anne English, Wilmington, def. Elaine Gibson, DuPont, 5 and 4; Jane Carrera, Kennett Square, def. Love Marshall, Overbrook, 3 and 2; Sandee Gardner, Phila. Country, def. Susan Buzz, Masaleon Springs, 2 up.

U.S. OLYMPIC FESTIVAL

Johnson chases decathlon mark

FESTIVAL, From 1-C

came to a sudden and immediate halt when the West Side Gang was rounded up by the police. No one went to jail, but the old gang broke up when Johnson's father was transferred to a job in Corvallis, Ore. With the Johnson kid gone, beer supplies again flowed uninterrupted in the taprooms and bowling alleys of Missoula. There was rejoicing all over town.

Corvallis was different.

"I didn't have the friends to get in trouble with anymore," Johnson said.

So ended a budding life of crime.

This was 1981. Johnson was now a senior in high school. Not above the occasional white lie, he told the football coach that he was a wide receiver and kick returner. Of course, he had never touched a football in his life. Still, he made the varsity, then went out for the track team, competing in the high jump and the hurdles and running on the mile-relay team that placed fourth at the state meet.

Another significant thing happened that senior year. As Johnson found his way in sports, he also found the Lord. He decided that there was some connection between his discovery of religion and the athletic talents that he hadn't known existed.

"I figured God wanted me to be a decathlete," he said.

Until late in his senior year, Dave Johnson had no idea what a decathlon was.

When a community college coach named Dave Bakely suggested that, with his raw athletic ability, Johnson attempt the decathlon, Johnson thought he meant marathon.

"That's 26 miles," Johnson said. "I don't do that."

"Don't you know who Bruce Jenner is?" Bakely asked.

"Is that the guy on *CHiPS*?"

No, that would be Erik Estrada. But, being bad television actors, the two are often confused.

After a year of football, Johnson took up Bakely's suggestion to try the decathlon. His earlier career as a juvenile delinquent came in handy. Once again, he was running and jumping and throwing, but now he was throwing the shot and the discus instead of rocks, tossing the javelin instead of kegs of beer.

Why the decathlon?

"I thought maybe it would be boring just to do one event," Johnson said.

He made the 1988 Olympic team, finishing ninth in Seoul, and was ranked first in the United States and second in the world both in 1989 and 1990. His personal best is 8,549 points, but some consider him the co-American record holder with Jenner because the javelin that Johnson throws does not travel as far as the more aerodynamic javelin that Jenner threw in the 1970s.

In June, the 6-foot-3, 195-pound Johnson was upset by Dan O'Brien at the national championships in New York. He and O'Brien figure to be two of the top contenders next month at the World Championships in Tokyo and next year at the Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain.

An American has not won the Olympic decathlon since Jenner in Montreal in 1976. A gold for Johnson would make him a star in the constellation of Jenner, Bob Mathias and Rafer Johnson.

"To be in that class, you've got to win a gold medal," Johnson said. "I'm very capable of doing that."

Who says crime doesn't pay?

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