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THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Thursday, July 15, 1993

## Golf Notes

# School programs are imperiled, but hope is on the horizon

GolfCorp is being asked to help keep golf going after the budget axe falls in the Public League.

**By Joe Juliano**  
PHILADELPHIA STAFF WRITER

John McDonald isn't giving up even as the financially troubled School District of Philadelphia plans to drop golf as a team sport, thus putting a dent in his efforts to increase the game's appeal in public high schools.

McDonald, executive director of the Greater Philadelphia Scholastic Golf Association, said he is talking with GolfCorp, the company that operates Philadelphia's public courses, about keeping school golf programs going in some form after they are eliminated, along with other selected sports, from school budgets.

He said he is being helped in his efforts by Mike Fugle, head pro at Cobbs Creek Golf Club, one of the

courses under the GolfCorp umbrella.

"It seems like all the athletic directors want to drop golf, and that's a curve ball," McDonald said. "Mike and I have shared our concerns with the higher-ups at GolfCorp. If the system drops golf, we'd like to run something in the fall utilizing the public courses."

McDonald added that talks with GolfCorp were "still in the tentative stages," but said he was encouraged by the company's interest. He said he hoped to get volunteers to coach the teams if teachers were unable to do so because of contractual considerations.

Led by McDonald, the GPGA has introduced golf to public schools in gym classes and clinics.

A significant achievement was the

establishment of a golf team at Edison High School. Eventually, 16 youths — half of them girls — practiced three days a week at Edison Golf Club during the spring.

"The kids were nice, the coach was enthusiastic, and the principal was behind it. It took a couple of years to draw up the interest. Now we have to figure out an alternate plan to keep it going if something doesn't happen over the summer."

In the meantime, McDonald is busy planning for the annual GPGA championship, which is open to boys and girls from city and suburban high schools who enter by invitation.

The qualifying round is set for Tuesday at Cobbs Creek with students competing in girls' Philadelphia boys and suburban boys divisions. About 70 qualifiers will advance to the next round July 26 at Bala Golf Club. The finals will take

place July 27 at Eagle Lodge Country Club in Lafayette Hill.

Sponsors still are being sought for the event. Anyone interested in entering the tournament or becoming a sponsor can call McDonald at 215-736-1600.

**Not this time.** The U.S. Golf Association said it planned to announce the site of the 1998 U.S. Open by next month's U.S. Amateur. A USGA source familiar with the situation said the site won't be Merion Golf Club.

In its June 25 issue, *World Golf* magazine said Merion was one of three candidates, along with the Olympic Club in San Francisco and Cherry Hills Country Club near Denver.

But the source discounted the report, saying Merion was not being considered for 1998.

Merion last hosted an Open in 1981. Its last USGA event was the 1989 U.S.

Amateur. The club had to withdraw as host of the 1994 U.S. Women's Open because it did not conform with USGA rules on membership policies regarding minorities.

**A close call remembered.** Harold Perry, head pro at Kennett Square Golf & Country Club, has nothing but pleasant memories of an experience that might have kept other players from turning in their sleep for weeks.

With the help of nine birdies, Perry shot a 63 in the third round of the Nike White Rose Classic in York, Pa., to draw within 2 shots of the lead. But he failed to close, finishing with a 75, dropping him into a tie for 26th.

Nevertheless, Perry, 41, was encouraged by his play in the July Fourth weekend event.

"For me, it was a very positive experience," he said. "What it says to me is that I can still play with those

guys. I'm a club pro, and it's nice to play like that. It will give me more confidence in local events."

I thought I had a chance to win. All kinds of thoughts went through my mind that Saturday night. Unfortunately, I'm not used to that level of competition. The 75 was disappointing, but I enjoyed the weekend. I haven't played that good in a long, long time.

In the tournament, Perry said he had six birdie putts of one foot or less and made six birdie putts in the range of 70 feet. After Friday's play was rained out, Perry didn't make a bogey all day Saturday in 36 holes — including the 63.

That streak got to 42 holes before his five-bogey, four-birdie, one-donkey-bogey round on Sunday.

"I told the sign guy, 'At least I'm not boring. You have to keep changing the numbers on my sign,'" Perry said of the standard-bearer in his group.

## Pro Basketball

# A rookie camp for a special rookie

**BRADLEY** from E1

lays. Next, he stepped out to flick in 15-foot jumpers, moving in as he around the basketball court. Then, with assistant coach Jeff Bland as his designated daily defender, Bradley switched to turnaround shots from the post. Soon, he was dropping in 20-footers after assistant coach Tony DiLeo fed him ball after ball.

The eyes of coach Fred Carter, general manager Jim Lynam and player personnel director Gene Shue followed Bradley's every motion, searching for flashes of the skills on which they have bet the team's future.

"Obviously, it's all very interesting, exciting and, you know, curious," said Lynam.

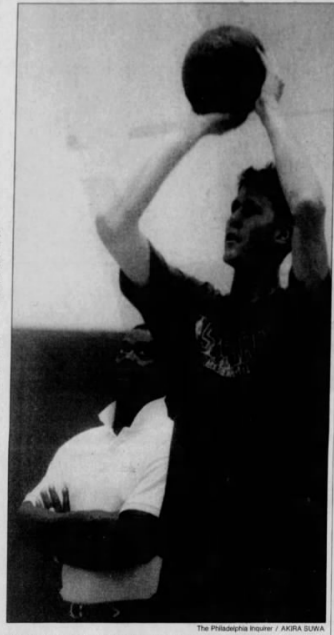
It is a curious precedent, too, since high draft picks rarely join a team before signing a contract. (Gilbert Chasey of the Washington Bullets and formerly of Indiana is the only first-round draft pick to sign with his club.) Even though Bradley will not get his successful skills against other Sixers prospects in the main camp this week at Holy Family College, he has officially moved here from his home in Utah to begin his professional career.

"I don't think it's happened very often, but given the situation — me wanting to become the best player I can be with the people I'm going to be with — I needed to be here," Bradley said. "So, in my best interests, I had to do this."

The day after the draft, the Sixers asked Bradley to consider coming East to train rather than stay in Utah all summer. Bradley agreed, and as a result his best interests now coincide exactly with those of the team.

"Just the fact that he here speaks volumes," Lynam said.

"We want to have consistency with that we had with Shawn," Lynam added. "It's important with any young player to put the pieces in place early on, to have him start to do the things he will have to do later on, the way you want him to do them."



The Philadelphia Inquirer / JEFFREY L. WATSON

While the coaches work on details such as a potentially unblockable hook shot, trainers Mike Abdouni and Pat Croce work on the things Bradley must do first — like running the floor with ease, for example. Another major concern is Bradley's weight and strength. Although he added weight to his long frame while on a subdiet, the team still feels he needs to be stronger to endure the pushing and shoving that will greet him like a tidal wave next season.

## 76ers Rookie and Free-Agent Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	College
26	Elmer Anderson	G	6-2	185	27	St. Bonaventure
36	Fred Benjamin	C	7-0	260	24	Norfolk State
43	Alex Blackwell	F	6-6	257	24	Monmouth
31	Tim Breux	F	6-10	230	22	Wyoming
11	James Bryson	F/C	6-10	230	22	Villanova
41	Adrian Caldwell	F	6-8	265	27	Lamar
7	Patrici Casabier	G	6-3	220	20	Evansville
42	Michael Curry	F	6-6	210	24	Georgia Southern
18	Roderick Doherty	G	6-7	185	25	South Florida
4	Alphonso Ford	G	6-2	190	21	Miss. Valley St.
29	Ron Hurry	F	6-7	194	25	Arkansas
48	Lee Jeppson	C	7-0	240	26	Iowa
52	Reggie Jordan	G	6-4	195	25	New Mexico St.
84	Thomas Jordan	F	6-10	290	35	Oklahoma St.
37	Jeff Kiser	F	6-10	245	23	Rhode Island
53	Warren Kidd	F	6-9	235	22	Mid. Tenn. St.
61	Tony Massenburg	F	6-9	220	25	Maryland
1	Travis Mays	G	6-2	190	25	Texas
54	George McDouff	F	6-8	215	26	Florida St.
3	Chris Munk	F	6-9	225	25	Southern Cal
8	Lance Munk	G/F	6-6	200	23	Villanova
50	Sebastian Noel	F	6-6	210	24	Cal Roberts
25	Charles Outlaw	F	6-8	210	22	Houston
19	Larry Robinson	G	6-5	180	25	Centenary
44	Malvin Robinson	C	7-0	270	23	Arizona St.
17	Ahmed Tahaian	C	7-1	250	27	Houston
20	DeLeon Turner	F	6-6	250	21	Florida A&M

That's why the 6-10, 275-pound Kunkin has the green light to bring away at Bradley.

"He's big, and it's good to have someone his size that is there, pushing up against you and giving you a taste of what it's like," Bradley said. "As I get in better shape, he's going to push more and I'll get more like a game situation."

For now, though, Bradley seems comfortable taking little steps. His talent is obvious as he shows solid form on a variety of shots around the floor, but at the same time he is careful not to push too far ahead.

"I want to play, and play soon as possible," he said. "But I don't want to do something that's going to get me hurt, so that I can't play in the near future. By playing in the kind of condition I'm in now, it would almost be detrimental for me as a basketball player to try to do something I'm not prepared to do."

**Notes.** Former first-round draft pick Travis Mays, whom the Sixers are considering at point guard, arrived for the second day of the camp at Holy Family and dashed 12 assists against just three turnovers. Mays, who played with Atlanta last season, was matched up against this year's second-round draft choice, Alphonso Ford, who had eight assists and five turnovers. —Warren Kidd, a former NBA rebounding champ from Middle Tennessee State, continued his fine work on the boards, collecting 12 rebounds with a chance to tie or beat Fieger. But Blanton held off to the creek on the 17th, double-bogeying for a 5 and finished fifth at 69.

July Sigel, former holder of the title, scored a 72. Fieger, who birdied five holes and three of the first four, earned \$2,600 from the \$14,800 prize.

**The results.**

Chris Lange, Overlook... 34-37-71  
Mike Miska, Eagle Lodge... 37-36-72  
Rick Spill, Appleton... 35-36-72  
Robert McCall, Sussex Valley... 35-37-72  
Greg Larson, Burlington... 37-36-73  
Tim Kelly, White Deer... 62-37-123  
Dale Lewis, Wilmington... 62-37-123  
Jeff Friedman, Massachusetts... 37-37-74  
Bill Koo, Princeton... 38-36-74  
McGuinness, Burlington... 40-36-74  
Vince Fiergrieve, Perth... 38-36-74  
Of Sile, Lenoir County... 38-36-74  
Jeff Harris, Thompson... 37-36-75  
Chris Anderson, Thompson... 37-36-75  
John Harris, Harrington Valley... 37-36-75  
Chet White, Pitts. County... 38-36-76  
John Karpig, Stone Harbor... 38-36-76

## Golf

# A golf course with no mercy will test British Open field

Players face a test in merely finding their way back to the clubhouse.

**By Leonard Shapiro**  
WASHINGTON POST

SANDWICH, England — The buzz words are basic enough at the British Open, which begins today at Royal St. George's Golf Club.

The players are talking about touch, about feel, about imagination to craft shots that, even if perfectly struck, still can take a wild bounce down the fairway or into the ghastly rough and yawning traps.

The hollyhocks are in full bloom in the surrounding towns and villages. But the golf course hard by the English Channel is devoid of trees or flowering shrubbery, save for the scraggly, straggling stuff that oaks

Bernard Darwin, the London Times' late golf correspondent (and grandson of Charles Darwin), wrote in 1910 that Royal St. George's, considered by many the most difficult of the Open courses, "is as nearly an idea of heaven as is to be attained on any earthly links."

But that is clearly not a view shared by many of the participants, who must contend with its eccentricities in this \$1.5 million, 12nd Open. In fact, some in these parts define local knowledge on this course as a player's ability to find his way back to the clubhouse from the acres of rolling

Consider the winning scores at the last two Opens here on the humpy, humpy Sandwich fairways and greens. They total 22 under par on the 6,860-yard course, which plays considerably longer, or shorter, depending on how the wind blows.

That's a marked contrast with the next-toughest courses on the Open rotation — a 12-under total for the last two Opens at Royal Lytham and Turnberry, or the easiest, 30 under in the last two events at St. Andrews.

This style course, "is something we've never seen before," said Nick Faldo, who finished second to Nick Faldo at Muirfield last July. "You just take what you can get and go on from there. You'll get bounces you don't like, but you just accept it and go on. It was wild when I first saw it."

"I'll be taking my good-back pitch coming before last," said Australia's Greg Norman, whose only major championship is the 1986 British Open at Turnberry. "You need to play the mental game for a week, and it's a course in which you have to have patience. You play a vast variety of shots to get the ball from Point



Associated Press / DENIS FAGUEN

A to Point B. It's true golf."

And occasionally true grief.

Royal St. George's is the site of the highest one-round score Jack Nicklaus ever recorded in a major, a 13-over 81 in the first round in 1961 that included four double bogeys and two bogeys on the back nine.

Of course, he shot a 65 the next day and made the cut. But in 1985, he posted a 77 in the second round and did not play on the weekend for the only time in a total of 31 British Open appearances.

Nicklaus came back to Sandwich on Tuesday on a far more upbeat note after his victory Sunday in the U.S. Senior Open at Cherry Hills near Denver, his first triumph in two years. At 53, he's given little chance to win here — the odds yesterday were 150-1 despite his three titles and seven second-place finishes. But Nicklaus believes he has a chance.

"I'm not here to finish 40th," he said, conceding that you can get as bad as you decide to come until the night after the third round of the Senior Open last Saturday. "I don't know if I can win or not win. My goal is to play well and be competitive. If I didn't believe in my own lead I could win, I wouldn't be here."

Faldo, as usual, is the oddsmaker's choice to win his fourth Open, listed as a 6-1 favorite by the William Hill bookmakers. Three weeks after an ugly, 9-over finish and a tie for 72d in

the U.S. Open at Baltusrol in Springfield, N.J., England's hero has proclaimed himself back in form.

Two weeks ago, he won his third straight Irish Open, and he said this week he's satisfied with the state of his game.

"You need some imagination around here," Faldo said. "You should be quite delighted to get on some of the greens. It's going to demand an awful lot. Anyone who can hit the ball low and work it both ways will have a chance."

Mary Calavechchia (1989) is the only American winner of a British Open in the last nine years. But several Americans are on everyone's mind, particularly Payne Stewart and Paul Azinger. But friends and loved ones for their ability to adjust to wind and difficult conditions.

U.S. Open champion Lee Janzen is playing in only his second British Open and has said his goal is merely to play well in a style of golf he's not had much experience with. He's trying to become the first player to win the U.S. and British titles in the same year since Tom Watson did it in 1982.

But Fred Couples insists he's not ready to win because "my game is not great right now." No one's ready to count him out, either, but Couples said Stewart, second at Baltusrol, probably would be his choice as the leading American player.

"I'm playing right at the top of my game," said Stewart.

# Fieger captures Phila. Open title

**By Mayer Brandelstein**  
INQUIRER CORRESPONDENT

Overbrook assistant pro Gene Fieger won the Philadelphia Open Golf Championship yesterday with a 3-under-par 33-44-67 at the Huntingdon Valley Country Club in a tournament twice delayed by rain that caused a reduction of play from 36 holes to 18.

In the restart after the second round, Fieger, 34, birdied the 18th hole, a Philadelphia PGA champion from Wayneborough, had two holes to complete and stood at sand-piper with a chance to tie or beat Fieger. But Blanton held off to the creek on the 17th, double-bogeying for a 5 and finished fifth at 69.

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