

## Amateur helps Tuthill get back in touch again

BY PAUL KENYON  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

CRANSTON — It is State Amateur week, which means it is time to bring out the best in Ben Tuthill's golf game. Tuthill did it again yesterday, firing a 3-under-par 69 to take the first-day lead in the 162nd R.I. Golf Association Amateur at Alpine Country Club.

While most in the 11-player field were struggling with the quick and slick Alpine greens, Tuthill recorded five birdies as he took a two-stroke lead over his Rumford neighbor, George Donnell.

Donnell, who lives one street away from Tuthill, overcame a double-bogey seven on his second hole to shoot 71. Five others, including former champions Charlie Blanchard and George Pirie, had 72. Bill Lunn, Tom Gory and Billy Auger also were in at even-par.

Defending champion Mike Soucy also put himself in excellent position to advance to match play with a 73, despite bogies on two of his last three holes.

All the leaders are among the state's best. Tuthill is the kid out of the group.

He graduated from URI in May after completing an excellent golf season. He helped the Rams reach the NCAA Tournament for the first time since the event went to its current format. However, between graduation and looking for work — he has a degree in communications — his golf game has suffered a bit.

"It's been a rough go-round with my golf game since nationals," Tuthill said. "I was great today. It was smooth sailing. I've been struggling with my putting. I putted a lot better today."

The amateur seems to do that for him. Tuthill exploded onto the golf scene when he won the Amateur four years ago. Last year, he

advanced to the semifinals before being beaten by Rob Grossguth.

Tuthill got to work immediately, beginning with birdies on his first two holes. He bogeyed 5 and 6 and turned the corner at even before coming home in 3 under 32.

"I played smart today. I put myself in the right spots," Tuthill said. "Even with 5 and 10-footers, you hope they go in, but you just want to get it somewhere around the hole. You lag it down there."

After playing against the best collegians in the country for the last several years, Tuthill said there is a comfort level when he returns to the Amateur.

"It's funny. We were just talking about it as we were coming down 18,"

Tuthill said. His caddy this week is his friend and former teammate, Mick Hogan.

"Mick was asking me if playing in all those college tournaments makes you feel different," Tuthill said. "I really don't feel it (any pressure) when I play like this. When you get down to match play, it's different. You feel it more then."

The scores were higher than usual, especially considering the relatively benign weather. It was the greens that made things difficult. Superintendent Mike Tanner got them at their peak for the tournament.

"These greens haven't been anywhere near this fast this year. They're awesome," said John Druhen, an Alpine member who shot 74. Druhen said he three-putted the seventh, his second three-put of the day, "then I started getting defensive."

He was not alone. The slopes on the Card-frey Cornish-designed course, combined with the speed, made them a huge challenge.

"This is the kind of day Bill Belichick would love," said Potowomut's Herb Stevens, who had an 81, with nines of 43-46. Lots of



JOURNAL / RUBEN W. PEREZ

Charlie Blanchard, who shot 72 and is three shots off the lead, chips on at the 17th green at Alpine Country Club yesterday.

defense out there, not much offense. "Anyone who left himself above the hole faced a lightning-fast putt down to the hole."

"If you get on the wrong side of the hole you are going to have a long day," Soucy said.

"Even when you had a side-hill putt you knew it could get away from you," Donnell said. Donnell was among those who had problems, at least early on. He drove into the woods on the par-5 seventh, punched out and eventually three-putted for a double bogey-7. But he did not let it affect him.

"I birdied the next two holes, so it was all forgotten," said Donnell, who now plays out of Quiddesset. "I played well. I'm happy."

Pirie, a two-time Amateur champion, eagled the par-5 18th, holding out from 110 yards, on the way to his 72.

The top 32 after today's second round advance to match play.

## Hawks continuing to build for success

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fifth of the annual year-end reviews of the 11 colleges and universities in Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. Providence College, Brown University and Bryant College have been reviewed. Rhode Island College, Wheaton College, Community College of Rhode Island, Salve Regina University, Johnson & Wales University and UMass Dartmouth will follow today's review of Roger Williams University.

A times, Roger Williams University director of athletics

George Kolb must feel like a contractor supervising a crew that is pouring the foundation for a grand structure. Not quite three years since his arrival at the Bristol school, he is managing a staff that has increased from four to 14 full-timers, and in 2003-04, produced eight winning teams and two Commonwealth Coast Conference

championships. Kolb moved into a beautiful new recreation center that was the buzz of the campus.

"When I look at the depth of it, I thought it was a tremendous year for us," Kolb said yesterday.

He cited the work of new coaches Emily Klabick in women's soccer and lacrosse, Chris O'Brien in men's and women's tennis, Matt Lindblad in sailing, and second-year basketball coaches Rachel Masden and Mike Tully. He mentioned how well they blended with veterans on the staff such as Dave Kennedy in wrestling, Steve Pappas in softball and Jim Cook in soccer.

Not all of the Hawks' teams were successful in the won-lost ledger — Klabick's teams won only seven games — but success isn't always measured in wins and losses, Kolb said.

There's a transition period when new coaches come in. They're laying the foundation for the core of coaches we have."

The Campus Recreation Center is the jewel of the athletics complex overlooking Mount Hope Bay. Featuring a basketball arena, swimming pool, fitness center, squash courts, aerobics studios and locker and training rooms, the center has become a magnet for recreational athletes as well as varsity players. RWU will launch a swim team in 2005.

"I saw this as a very pivotal year in our athletic history," Kolb said. "We opened a new building and brought in a lot of new coaches and staff, and they got to know each other. The dynamic here has changed dramatically in the last few years. A lot of things needed to go well this year, and I thought they did. Things still have to be done, but the foundation has been poured. Now it's up to individuals and me to take it forward."

Future projects may involve a facility to Baystate Field, refurbishing the tennis complex and building a boathouse.

The summary:

■ **MEN'S SOCCER** (5-12, 0-2 CCC, 1st): Lost to Gordon, 1-0, in CCC title game. Beat Keene State, 1-0, for second consecutive year.

■ **MEN'S SOCCER** (5-12, 2-14-2, 8th): Emily Seelig of Jamestown was the top scorer with 18 goals, 5 assists for 41 points. She tied a school record with four goals against Anna Maria.

■ **MEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY** (CCC champion): Won third consecutive Commonwealth Coast Conference title. Jon Buell finished 29th at the New England and became the first RWU male since 1982 to earn All-New England.

■ **WOMEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY** (CCC champion): Won fourth straight CCC championship, more than any CCC school. Coach Todd Deely resigned to go to Simpson College in Iowa, Iowa.

■ **COED EQUESTRIAN**: Finished second in the regional standings, four points behind Brown, in the fall. Finished first in the spring for the first time in the 23-year history of the program.

■ **LINDSAY ROBERT** rode in the national championships.

■ **COED GOLF** (16th): Finished second at CCC Championships, tied for 22nd at New England. Best RWU finish ever. Mike Jedrejczyk won his 15th medal, a school record. Played only one match in the two short-end spring. Golf was dropped at the end of the season.

■ **COED SAILING**: Received votes in the national rankings for the first time. Placed 11 top-five and 20 top-10 finishes in 35 regattas. Finished 12th in New England in the spring and won the O'Toole Trophy race.

■ **WOMEN'S TENNIS** (6-8, 4-5, 8th): Caitlin Marshall of Lincoln finished second in career singles with a 47-14 (77%) record and ninth in doubles with a 25-14 (64%) mark.

■ **WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL** (15-17, 4-5, 8th): Jack Dolanathan ended her career as the RWU assists leader with 1,882.

■ **MEN'S BASKETBALL** (18-11, 10-6, 2nd): Second highest win total in school history and the most in 29 years. Earned second ECAC berth in history and lost to Wheaton in the semifinals. Brandon Parrish of Lincoln was CCC rookie of the week three times.

■ **WOMEN'S BASKETBALL** (11-14, 8-10, 3rd): Kristin Gaynor broke the school scoring record with 1,370 points and was all-conference.

■ **MEN'S VOLLEYBALL** (16-15, 7-3 FVA): Ranked eighth nationally. Lost to NYU in semifinals of EVA Division III championships and to River in the ECAC North Championships.

Coach Mike Holden won his 100th match. Jack Dolanathan was second team All-American.

■ **WRESTLING** (13-10, 3-3 Pilgrim League, 10th): Eighth consecutive winning season. Finished 11th in New England, worst since 1999. Joe Fitzsimons and Jon Egan were Academic All-Americans. Fitzsimons ended career with school record for victories (139).

■ **BASKETBALL** (19-19, 13-7, 5th): Brian Robinson finished as career leader in eight categories, among them his (188), home runs (19) and assists (300).

■ **WOMEN'S LACROSSE** (2-12, 1-7, 8th): First year of varsity play. Lost 11 games before beating Nichols, 15-4.

■ **SOFTBALL** (21-15, 16-6, 3rd): Steve Pappas became the winningest coach in the school's sport at RWU with his 155th victory. Erin Keating finished as the career assists leader (285).

■ **MEN'S TENNIS** (11-8, 6-2, 3rd): Ted School record for wins. Lost to Colby-Sawyer in the CCC semifinals. Took his first spring trip, to Hilton Head. Kevin Rugaber won the CCC senior scholar athlete award.

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## Jones reaches finals in long jump

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Marion Jones, her vulnerability seeming to grow with each event, finished a shocking seventh last night, but managed to advance to the final of the long jump at the U.S. Olympic trials.

TRACK — Jones, by far the best U.S. long jumper in a weak field, was among the 12 qualifiers who advanced to Thursday's final. But she failed by a quarter-inch to reach the automatic qualifying mark of 21 feet, and got worse with each of her three jumps.

Jones, who won an unprecedented five medals at the 2000 Sydney Games, failed Saturday night to make the U.S. squad in the 194 meters — an event in which she is the defending Olympic champion.

Her qualification was virtually taken for granted in the long jump, in which she won a bronze medal in Sydney. Now it suddenly doesn't look so certain.

Meanwhile, the list of the BALCO Four — those athletes charged with steroid use by USADA — was eliminated at the U.S. Olympic trials.

Alvin Harrison, one of four athletes who faces a lifetime ban if found guilty of using steroids obtained from the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, failed to qualify for the final of the men's 400.

He joined fellow accused dopers Tim Montgomery and Christie Brinkley in failing to qualify. The fourth accused doper, Michelle



MARION JONES: Not finished yet

Collins, pulled out of the women's 400 claiming a hamstring injury.

Harrison finished seventh in his semifinal. Then he threatened to sue USA Track & Field, claiming "bias and discrimination."

By failing to qualify, the four accused dopers saved the U.S. Olympic Committee the embarrassment of having to remove them from the team if arbitrators rule they are guilty.

Also failing to qualify for the final was world champion Jerome Young.

In other action last night, Jeff Miles-Clark earned a trip to her fifth Olympics by winning the women's 800 meters — but her sister-in-law got perhaps an even bigger prize after finishing third.

Miles-Clark, 37, finished in 1 minute, 59.06 seconds to hold off Nicole Teter and sister-in-law Hazel Clark — whose fiancé proposed to her immediately after the race.

Jonathan Johnson won the men's 800 in 1:44.77 to earn an Olympic spot along with Khadevis Robinson and Derrick Peterson.

James Parker won the men's hammer throw. Aretha Hill won the women's discus. Tisha Waller won the women's high jump.

## Peirsol gives Phelps a dose of reality

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Not so fast on those seven gold medals for Michael Phelps.

Aaron Peirsol sent a clear message to the world's greatest swimmer yesterday, setting a world record in the 200-meter backstroke and handing Phelps his first loss of the U.S. Olympic swimming trials.

Amanda Beard also set a world record — bringing the total to five in the first six days of the trials — but 10-time medalist Jeremy Thompson failed to claim a spot in the 100 freestyle.

Peirsol and Phelps were both under record pace for the first three laps, but Peirsol led all the way and pulled away on the final leg for a time of 1 minute, 54.74 seconds — breaking his own mark of 1:55.15 set two years ago.

Phelps took the second Olympic spot at 1:55.86, but he found out how difficult it will be to race in so many events against specialized swimmers. He's entered six individual events at the trials, hoping to compete in up to nine races at the Athens Games.

After the loss, Phelps returned just 28 minutes later to win the 200 individual medley. He faded in the second half of the race but still won easily at 1:56.71 — 0.77 off his own world record. Ryan Lochte took the second Olympic spot at 1:59.71.

Phelps became the first American male to qualify for the Olympics in five individual events, and he's claimed a spot in

the 800 meter freestyle relay as well.

The first final of the night proved Phelps's world record. She didn't waste any time reclaiming her mark in the 200 breaststroke, dominating a field that included four other Olympians. She won by nearly 5 seconds at 2:22.44, breaking the record that Australian Leslie Jones had established Friday at a meet Down Under. Jones' time of 2:22.06 edged the record Beard had shared with China's Huo Qi.

Caroline Bruce was the surprise runner-up, earning her first trip to the Olympics in 2:27.22.

Another surprise occurred in the 100 freestyle when Kara Lynn Joyce upset Natalie Coughlin, while Thompson finished fifth.

Joyce won with a time of 54.38, just four-hundredths of a second ahead of Coughlin. The top two qualified individually for the Olympics, while Thompson (55.63) could still land a spot on the 400 freestyle relay team.

In the 50 freestyle semifinals, Jason Lezak equaled the fastest time in the world for a swimmer to win his heat in 21.98.

Gary Hall Jr., hoping to add to his eight Olympic medals, had the second-fastest time in the semis at 22.12.

In the 100 fly, world record-holder Ian Crocker put up the best time of the semis, winning his heat in 51.25. Phelps won the other head-to-head showdown today.

## Doping investigations send two to sidelines

LIMOGES, France (AP) — Two cyclists being investigated in doping cases were ejected from the Tour de France yesterday, a decision one of the riders said was "cruel."

TOUR DE FRANCE — Tour director Jean-Marie Leblanc said Stefano Casagrande and Martin Hvastija of Alessio were no longer welcome and would not start today's ninth stage.

"We do not want the serenity of the competition disrupted by their presence," Leblanc said.

Hvastija was 124th in the overall standings, and Casagrande 155th.

"I don't understand such a cruel decision," Hvastija told The Associated Press. He suggested that he and Casagrande were unfairly picked on because they are not top performers.

"If we looked at all the little problems that we have, half of the peloton should not restart," he said.

Hvastija said Italian investigators bugged a conversation he had with a teammate during the 2001 Tour of Italy about a re-

cently banned substance. He did not reveal the name of the other rider or the product, but said it had been legally used before.

He said he told his Alessio team about the "small case" before the Tour, and that they supported him. He claimed Leblanc was aware of it and "respected his decision of my director" to let him race.

Meanwhile, Tour organizers have contacted judicial officials in San Remo, Italy, about an article in the French newspaper Le Monde that said one of Lance Armstrong's U.S. Postal Service teammates — Czech Pavel Padrnos — has been summoned to appear before an Italian tribunal for allegedly taking doping substances during the 2001 Tour of Italy.

Before the Tour, organizers said all riders "implicated in a judicial inquiry or under police investigation" would be barred.

Also yesterday, 42 riders, including overall leader Thomas Voeckler, were given blood tests. No anomalies that might hint at doping were found, the sports governing body said in a statement.

A times, Roger Williams University director of athletics

George Kolb must feel like a contractor supervising a crew that is pouring the foundation for a grand

## SPORTS SHORTS

## Blazers sign top pick Telfair

JOHN WHELAN REPORTS

The Portland Trail Blazers signed first-round draft pick **Sebastian Telfair** yesterday. The 19-year-old guard from Brooklyn, N.Y., was selected with the 13th pick in the NBA draft. Telfair was a McDonald's All-American player in 2004 and was picked to play on the 2004 USA Men's Junior National Select Team. The 6-foot-10 guard will show up for summer training camp this week, the team said. His first games will be played at the Rocky Mountain Revue in Salt Lake City from July 16-21.

■ The Utah Jazz signed forward **Kris Humphries** and guard **Kirk Snyder**, the team's first-round picks in last month's National Basketball Association draft. Humphries, selected from the University of Minnesota with the 14th pick, is guaranteed a three-year contract worth about \$3.9 million under terms of the NBA's collective bargaining agreement. Snyder, the 16th overall pick from the University of Nevada, will make about \$3.9 million.

■ The Miami Heat gave coach **Stan Van Gundy** and general manager **Randy Poffo** multiyear contract extensions yesterday. Van Gundy replaced **Pat Riley** as Miami's coach four days before last season. The brother of Rockets coach **Jeff Van Gundy** led the Heat to a 42-40 record, a 17-game improvement from the previous season. The Heat beat New Orleans in the opening round of the playoffs before losing to the Indiana Pacers in six games. The Heat will probably have a different look next season as they close to acquiring center **Shaquille O'Neal** from the Los Angeles Lakers for **Lamar Odom**, **Brian Grant** and **Caron Butler**. Trades can't be completed until midnight tomorrow.

■ In the wake of a report that **Michael Jordan** is interested in buying the Miami Heat, coach **Micky Arison** said yesterday the franchise is not for sale. Arison was out of town but responded to the report through a Heat spokesman. According to The Chicago Tribune, an unidentified source said Jordan has been in discussions with the Heat about joining the organization as an owner. Jordan's representatives at SFX did nothing to refute the report.

■ The Atlanta Hawks said yesterday they signed their two first-round draft picks — forwards **Josh Childress** and **Josh Smith**. Childress, the sixth overall pick in the draft last month, was an All-America last season at Stanford as a junior. The 6-foot-8 Childress averaged 15.7 points, 7.5 rebounds and led the Cardinal in blocked shots.

## TENNIS

Wimbledon champion **Maria Sharapova** has withdrawn from next week's JPMorgan Chase Open, citing the need for rest and recuperation. The Chase Open was to have been Sharapova's first American hard court tournament in her preparation for the U.S. Open. Sharapova will rejoin the WTA tour for the Acura Classic on July 26. She also plans to play in the Pilot Pen Classic at New Haven, Conn., before competing in the U.S. Open, which begins Aug. 30.

## SOCCER

Teenage star **Freddy Adu** of D.C. United was one of 15 reserves picked yesterday for the MLS All-Star team. MLS commissioner **Dan Garber** added coach **Gregg Berhalter** to the team, along with the league's career goals leader, **Jason Kreis** of the Dallas Burn. East head coach **Peter Brannan** of D.C. United selected goalkeeper **Jon Busch** (Columbus), midfielder **Bobby Convey** (D.C. United), midfielder **Clint Dempsey** (New England), forward **Alecko Eskandarian** (D.C. United), forward **Pat Noonan** (New England) and midfielder **Ben Olsen** (D.C. United).

## HOCKEY

■ The St. Louis Blues resigned center **Mike Sillinger**, who joined the team in a trade in March. Sillinger began the season with the Phoenix Coyotes and was traded to St. Louis for goaltender **Brent Johnson**.

■ The Pittsburgh Penguins signed restricted free-agent forward **Ryan VandenBussche** yesterday. The 31-year-old VandenBussche played in a career-high 65 games last season with the Chicago Blackhawks, finishing with four goals, one assist and 121 penalty minutes.

■ The Anaheim Mighty Ducks resigned defenseman **Vitaly Vishnyakov** to a two-year contract. Vishnyakov, the fifth overall selection in the 1998 National Hockey League draft, had a career-high six goals last season and tied a career-best with 10 assists.

■ Providence College assistant coach **David Berard** was named an assistant coach for the 2004 United States Under-17 select hockey team that will compete in the Five Nations Tournament Aug. 24-28 in Halle, a.d. Saale, Germany. The U.S. will face Under-17 Select Teams from the Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia and Switzerland. The U.S. captured the championship with a 3-0-1 overall record at the 2003 Tournament in Slovakia, marking the second consecutive title performance in the event. Berard, a 1992 graduate of PC and a Coventry resident, has served as the Frars' top assistant coach for the last six seasons and is entering his second season as associate head coach of the Frar squad. He is currently a USA Hockey Level 3-Certified Coach.

■ Niagara University's girls' and women's hockey programs will be joining the Eastern College Athletic Conference, Niagara athletic director **Mike Hermann** said yesterday that he was told of the league's decision this week.

## COMING UP

## TODAY

MLL All-Star Game, Houston, 8 p.m.

TRIPLE-A ALL-STAR AT MCCOY

Workouts

Downhill activities

State Amateur golf at Alpine

## TODAY

Red Sox at Angels, 10:05 p.m.

Triple-A All-Stars at McCoy

Game, 7 p.m.

State Amateur golf at Alpine

## THURSDAY

Red Sox at Angels, 10:05 p.m.

PawSox at Indianapolis, 8 p.m.

State Amateur golf at Alpine

## FRIDAY

Red Sox at Angels, 10:05 p.m.

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State Amateur golf at Alpine

## SATURDAY

Red Sox at Angels, 10:05 p.m.

PawSox at Indianapolis, 8 p.m.

Ray Sox at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.

## GOLF

## RPGA STATE AMATEUR

At Alpine

Ben Smith, Washington

George Dwyer, Washington

George Dwyer, Washington

George Dwyer, Washington

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## BOXING

## TODAY

Red Sox at Angels, 10:05 p.m.

Triple-A All-Stars at McCoy

Game, 7 p.m.

State Amateur golf at Alpine

Workouts

Downhill activities

State Amateur golf at Alpine

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## Weather wins out on Day 2

Seasoned veterans George Pine and Bill Lunnie hit the low-water marks on a rain-plagued day at Cranston Country Club.

BY PAUL KENYON  
JOURNAL NEWS WRITER

CRANSTON — Officially, match play in the R.I. Golf Association Amateur Championship does not begin until today. Unofficially, it began yesterday, although with a different format.

Rather than player against player, it was the field against the weather yesterday in the second round of qualifying at Cranston Country Club.

Amazingly, despite heavy rain early and then again late in the day, the round was completed. All but three of the 114 players were able to finish.

Not surprisingly, scores were high, with no one able to match par 72 on the 6,846-yard course that played more than 7,200 yards because of all the rain, fog and heavy air. Two of the five players who showed through the conditions to post 73s — Valley's George Pine and Warranawisset's Bill Lunnie — tied for medalist honors at 145.

The two veterans — Pine is a two-time amateur champion, "among his many titles, and Lunnie a two-time Stroke Play list — seemed unfazed by the conditions.

"Was it raining today?" Pine joked as he tried to dry off.

As might be expected, it was the veterans who have had to deal with similar problems in the past who best handled the conditions. In fact, first-day leader Ben Tuffill, who had a 79 and finished fourth at 148, was the only player under 25 years old to finish in the top 10.

George Donnell was third at 147 after a second round 76. Former champion Charlie Blanchard (77) and Rob Grossguth (74), who lost in the finals last year, tied for fifth at 149.

Defending champ Mike Soucy also advanced, at 154, setting up the highlighted first-round match. Soucy will go head-to-head with Billy Auger (150), the RIGA's reigning player of the year.

It took a score of 156 to advance. Four players tied at that score for the final three spots. Scott Stachelek and Peter O'Neill parred the first playoff hole and took two of the spots. Warranawisset's David Apuzzo birdied the third hole, eliminating Kevin Baker.

On this day, though, the story was more about surviving the conditions than trying to beat the other competitors.

"I got here at 5:30 and it was pouring then," said Bob Ward, the RIGA's tournament director. "It rained hard until about 9:30."

Ward and Joe Sprague Jr., the RIGA's executive director, monitored the conditions throughout.



Billy Auger of Crestwood Country Club reacts as his par putt on the fourth hole slides away from the hole yesterday.

They considered stopping play in mid-morning.

"We were looking at the radar and a couple of times thought about calling them in," Sprague said. "But we didn't really have a lot of options. If we called them in we knew we would have problems finishing play, especially since we knew we might have to have a playoff."

"The bottom line is that the course was playable," he said. "It's an outdoor game. It happens. Par was probably about 73 today."

"It really was bad for the first seven holes," said Tuffill, who was among the early starters. "The course played much longer."

Tuffill and most others struggled in the morning rain. Tuffill was 6-over on his first nine. When the rain let up at midday, it appeared that the morning starters had caught a bad break.

The afternoon half of the draw got to begin its round without rain. Some played as many as nine or 10 holes before the rain returned, almost as heavy as in the morning.

"I went through five gloves," said Andrew Galvin of Carnegie Abbey. Galvin, playing in the afternoon, recorded a 73, equalling the low score of the day and easily advanced at 151.

"The greens were really soft, but they were still fast," Galvin said.

"I felt like a hairdresser out

there. I was fixing so many ball marks," said Mark Devine, who advanced at 151 after a second round 75. "It was so wet that shots were making big marks (on the greens)."

RIGA officials made minor concessions to the conditions. Shortly after 4 p.m., Sprague ordered that the tee on the par-3 15th be moved up about 15 yards because the tee players had been using was under water. Still, only one group failed to finish. The threesome of Bernie McCrirk, Dan Gruslin and Paul Welch, the third-off start group on the course, walked off about 4:30 as they were playing the 13th hole.

"Half the fairway on 13 is under water," McCrirk said. "We were all on our way to shooting 165. It didn't serve any purpose to be out there." Pine and Lunnie, who will decide the medal in match play — the one who stays alive longest will take the medal — somehow managed to post 73s and move to the top of the leaderboard.

"I hit 14 greens in regulation," said Pine, the periodontist who is well qualified for the U.S. Senior Open. "That's pretty good in these conditions."

"I hit some awful shots and some good shots," Lunnie said. "For me, it was a pretty good day."

He and Pine were among the few who could say they enjoyed it.

began with a triple bogey on the first hole.

"I lost a ball to the right of the green," explained Tente. "It kind of vanished. That happens in golf. It's weird how I had to go back and hit another (shot)."

Tente played solid after that misfire, making seven pars and one birdie. Just as important was the fact he didn't lose another ball in the playoff.

"This time, I played it differently," he said. "I hit a 3-wood down the right side because I went left the first time around. I hit 5-iron into the green and two putted from there."

One long putt salvaged the day for Kaufman, a senior-to-be at Classical High, and it came on the fifth hole where he shot triple bogey.

"Actually, I was lucky because I had to make a 40-foot putt to save that," said Kaufman. "After I made that putt, from then on, I made three pars."

Kaufman parred the sixth, eighth and ninth holes to beat Robert Eaton by two strokes.

"Because of the conditions and never having played the course before, that made it a little difficult especially given the yardages," said Kaufman.

Morrell, a student at Duxbury Middle School who was playing on her home course, had bogeys on the 148-yard, par-3 10th hole at the start of her match and in sudden-death. The difference between winning and losing was her club selection.

"The first time I went around, I used a 5-iron, but I realized I struck that pretty well, so I decided to use a 4-iron the second time," said Morrell. "I didn't hit it as clean, so it undershot again."

"Then, I hit a wedge and it overshot the hole a little bit and I just two-putted."

Hasson, a Seekonk native who plays out of Crestwood, recorded two pars, one of which came on the 551-yard, par-5 11th hole. He also parred the 14th and won his division by six strokes.

The annual tournament is run by club pro John Rainone and assistant pro Brian Owens.

## Drennan in another world

It's a tough job, but someone has to do it.

Tom Drennan is that way. In his career as a coach, a teacher and an administrator, he has never backed away from doing extra work. This time, it just so happens his newest assignment is a pleasant one.

Drennan, the URI golf coach for the past 16 years, has been elevated from vice president to president of the College Golf Coaches Association of America. And what is his first duty?

Drennan is carrying it out now. He is in Japan, coaching the United States team in the Fujin Xerox U.S. vs. Japan Collegiate Championship.

Drennan has 12 of the top American college coaches with him, including one of his South County neighbors, Narragansett's Anna Grzebiel.

The matches feature eight men and four women for each team. In addition to Grzebiel, a second team All-American this year as a freshman at Duke, the American women's team has

Kaitlin Deane of New Mexico, UCLA's Charlotte Mayorkas and Brooke Tull of TCU. The men's team is Trent Erb of Ogdenhorpe, John Holmes of Kentucky, J.J. Jakovic of Chico State, Nolan Martin of Colorado State, Jeff Overton of Indiana, Michael Putnam of Pepperdine, Justin Smith of Minnesota and Peter Tomaso of California.

Drennan has some pressure on him as coach. The United States has won each of the last eight years and is 21-7 since the event was organized.

Being named president of the national organization caps a fabulous run for Drennan, who this year directed his Rhode team to the nationals, making URI the first school from the Northeast to win since the 1980s. A qualifying format was put in place more than 20 years ago.

Drennan has been New England coach of the year eight times and Atlantic 10 coach of the year twice. He is past president of the New England Coaches Association. He takes over the national organization at a time when the group is being reorganized with a larger board of directors, one that includes

Trip Kuehne, the former national Amateur champion. Kuehne becomes the first non-collegiate coach to serve on the board.

Bigger and better

The New England Pro Golf Tour is no more. It has become bigger and better than ever under its new name, the Cleveland Golf Tour.

The fifth-year developmental tour begins its southern New England swing with an event this week at LeBaron Hills in Lakeville, Mass. For the season, the tour will offer 16 events, each with purses of about \$60,000.

The 601-yard, par-5 sixth hole is the longest in British Open history... The 2005 event will be played at St. Andrews.

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PGA Tour site: <http://www.pgatour.com>  
European Tour site: <http://www.euroatour.com>

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B.C. OPEN

SITE: Endicott, N.Y.  
SCHEDULE: Tomorrow-Sunday.  
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TELEVISION: USA (Tomorrow-Friday, 4-6 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 3-6 p.m.).

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NOTES: Stadler's son, Kevin, also is in the field. The younger Stadler has won two Nationwide Tour events in the last three weeks — the Lake Erie Charity Classic on the same day his father won the champions Tour's Bank of America Championship, and the ScholarShip America Showdown on Sunday in Hudson, Wis. — Spike McElroy won the 2002 event for his lone PGA Tour title... The U.S. Bank Championship is next week in Milwaukee.

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Kyle Gallo, who earlier this summer won the Providence Open, currently leads in four earnings with \$16,537 through four events.

Little and better

Sally Little, the winner of 13 LPGA Tour titles, will be the featured instructor at Golf School for Women, to be held next week at the Button Hole Short Course and Teaching Center.

Course and Teaching Center will conduct three separate half-day clinics, limited to 20 players each. The clinics will cover the full swing, chipping, bunker and wedge play and putting. Participants then will have the chance to play Button Hole's par-3 course with kids in the Button Hole program.

"We are very excited to have Sally Little come to Button Hole and help promote the game of golf to women in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts," said Kathy O'Malley, Button Hole's executive director.

"Sally is on our advisory board and has always supported our mission of making golf accessible to everyone." Little will be assisted in the clinics by former LPGA player LaRee Sugg, now the women's coach at the University of Richmond.

Little's titles included three majors, among them the 1980 LPGA Championship.

The clinics will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 21 and 22 and from 12:15-5 p.m. July 22nd. Fee is \$175 and goes to support Button Hole's youth programs. Call Lori DiPersio at But-

ton Hole, at 421-1664.

Chip shots

The annual Brad Faxon Junior Tournament has been set for Aug. 21 at Rhode Island Country Club. Each club in the state may send a three-player team to the event. Information on the tournament may be obtained from members of the RIFGA, who help run the event.

Grzebiel, because of her trip to Japan representing the United States, will not be able to defend her New England Women's Amateur title this week in Rutland, Vt. The Rhode Island delegation will include both Val Blinn and Ally Caffrey, the two finalists in last week's Ocean State Women's Golf Association Amateur. Others entered are Kay Bullock and Leeann Cesarlo of Metacomb.

Cissy Grady of Quiddesset, Tiffany DiPanni of Pawtucket, Sarah Rizk and Robyn Catley of Warwick, Patricia Keough of Pawtucket, Marisa White of Triggs, Julie Greene and Kibbe Reilly of RIC. Albert Valiente of the Atlantic Golf Center won the RIFGA Pro-Am at Crystal Lake with a 74, one stroke better than North Kingstown's John Rainone and John Simmons of Newport National.

Officials of the Buick Championship, to be held in Hartford next month, have awarded Bill Haas, the rookie pro who won the CVS Charity Classic with his father, Jay, a sponsor's exemption into the tournament.

## THIS WEEK'S GOLF SCHEDULE

ROYAL & ANCIENT GOLF CLUB  
OF ST. ANDREWS  
BRITISH OPEN

SITE: Troon, Scotland.  
SCHEDULE: Tomorrow-Sunday.  
COURSE: Royal Troon Golf Club (7,175 yards, par 71).

PURSE: \$7.44 million (4 million British pounds). Winner's share: \$1,338,340 (720,000 British pounds).

TELEVISION: TNT (Tomorrow-Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.).

LAST YEAR: Ben Curtis became the first player since Francis Ouimet in the 1913 U.S. Open to win the first major he entered, beating Thomas Bjorn and Vijay Singh by a stroke at Royal St. George's, Tiger Woods and Louis Oosthuizen finished two shots back.

LAST WEEK: France's Thomas Levet won the Scottish Open, closing with an 8-under 63 — matching the lowest round of his career — for a one-stroke victory over New Zealand's Michael Campbell. Levet earned a spot at Troon as the top finisher at Loch Lomond not already exempted... Australia's Mark Hensby won the John Deere Classic for his first PGA Tour title, beating England's John Morgan with a par on the second hole of a playoff in St. Ives, Ill. Hensby earned a spot in the British Open, but declined it.

NOTES: Woods, the 2000 champion at St. Andrews, is wireless in eight major championships since winning the 2002 U.S. Open at Bethpage Black for his seventh major victory in an 11-tournament career. The eight-time major champion led for 17 hours in the U.S. Open, 14 strokes behind winner Retief Goosen... Americans have won the last five British Opens at Royal Troon, the longest streak at any of the links in relation. Arnold Palmer won in 1962, followed by Tom Weiskopf (1973), Tom Watson (1982), Mark Calcavecchia (1989) and Justin Leonard (1997)... Goosen is coming off consecutive victories in the U.S. Open and European Open... Ernie Els, the 2002 winner at Muirfield, has five top-10 finishes in nine appearances in the tournament. The 601-yard, par-5 sixth hole is the longest in British Open history... The 2005 event will be played at St. Andrews.

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LAST YEAR: Australia's Rachel Teske made a 35-foot birdie putt on the final hole of regulation and won with an 18-footer on the third hole of a playoff with Annika Sorenstam, Loree Kane and Jennifer Rosales.

LAST WEEK: Meg Mallon completed a North American double, running away with the Canadian Women's Open a week after winning the U.S. Women's Open. The three-time Canadian champion, best 2003 winner Beth Daniel by four strokes in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

NOTES: Dorothy Delasin won the 2000 tournament at 19 to become the LPGA Tour's youngest champion in 25 years. She successfully defended her title in 2001... Sorenstam, Mallon and 14-year-old Michelle Wie will return to the tour next week in the Evian Masters in France... South Korea's Mi Hyun Kim won the 2002 tournament.

On the Net: <http://www.lpga.com>  
LPGA Tour site: <http://www.lpga.com>

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LAST YEAR: Inaugural event.

LAST WEEK: Kevin Stadler won a playoff for second time in three weeks, beating Chris Tidland with a birdie on the bird extra hole in the ScholarShip America Showdown in Hudson, Wis. Matthew Goggin was eliminated on the first playoff hole and Kyle Thorman dropped out on the second.

NOTES: Pete Dye is a world-renowned course designer. His works include the Stadium Course at the TPC at Sawgrass, Harbour Town, The Teeth of the Dog in the Dominican Republic, The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island, Crooked Stick, Oak Tree and the River Course at Blackhawk Run... The Canadian PGA is next week in Cambridge, Ontario, followed by the Wichita Open.

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COURSE: Endicott Golf Club (6,974 yards, par 72).

## Champs singing in the rain

Despite miserable conditions that cut play short, two titles are decided in sudden-death playoffs.

BY MIKE SCANDURA  
STAFF WRITER

NORTH KINGSTOWN — When someone says Jeffrey Tente's "all wet," he takes it as a compliment.

Tente beat Garrett Medeiros on the first hole of their sudden-death playoff yesterday at North Kingstown Golf Course to capture the Boys 15-16 Division title in the Rhode Island PGA Junior Championship.

The medal-play tournament was reduced from 18 holes to nine because of heavy rain that forced a late start.

Tente, who resided in South Kingstown, and Medeiros each shot 2-over-par 38 on the front nine, with Medeiros carding a birdie on the 276-yard, par-4 ninth to force a playoff. Tente required just one extra hole to win the title as he parred the 354-yard, par-4 first hole.

"I like playing in the rain," said Tente, who plays out of Point Judith. "We had the state tournament earlier this year at Cranston (Country Club) and the first six holes I played were in a downpour."

"It's kind of odd that I like playing in the rain because I focus more. You can't blame it on (weather) conditions because everybody's playing in it. I just sucked it up and played my best (today)."



## Hall of Fame's magical weekend of memories should be relished forever

They thought of everything from commemorative lapel pins to straw hats to ward off the sun to golf carts for members in their 80s who have lost a step or three over the decades.

Now, I only hope that chairman **Jan Leschly**, president **Tony Trabert**, CEO **Mark Stenning** and the rest of the team at the International Tennis Hall of Fame have a video in the works. Because the Hall of Fame's 50th Anniversary last weekend was a celebration for the ages, deserving its own chapter of tennis history. Many of the weekend's activities have been well-chronicles. The return of 48 Hall of Famers for a once-in-a-lifetime reunion and the addition of three from the Class of 2004. A sentimental Friday night dinner at the Newport Casino and a Saturday night black-tie bash at The Breakers. And a Sunday induction ceremony that topped the charts thanks to the joie de vivre of 87-year-old **Dodo Cheney**, the humility of Grand Slam champion **Stefan Edberg** and the unabashed love of future Hall of Famer **Andre Agassi** for his wife, the incomparable **Steffi Graf**.

But there was much more that should be available for future generations to review and appreciate. I'm thinking of the dashing Argentine **Guillermo Vilas**, leading the parade of Hall of Famers Saturday and then blowing kisses to the crowd when he was introduced. And **Gene Mako**, 88, returning to the Newport Casino for the first time since he played doubles there with **Don Budge** in 1938, the year Budge became the first player to win the tennis Grand Slam: French, Wimbledon, U.S. and Australian championships in the same year. "I haven't been back in 66 years! I'm just walking around wondering where everybody is," Mako said. Many of his contemporaries achieved tennis immortality, as he did in 1973, and are memorialized on handsome plaques in the Enshrinee Room of the Hall of Fame Museum.

I'm thinking of the marvelous Australians who created a dynasty in the 1960s and who can still polish off a Federer's lager and drive a backhand winner even though most are in their 60s. And **Rod Laver**, the best of them, recovered from a stroke that put him in a wheelchair for two months in 1968. He had the time of his life, whether chatting with his old mates or playing a doubles exhibition to raise money for the Hall of Fame.

I'm replaying the Saturday night dinner at which **Jan Kodes**, the Czech champ who won Wimbledon in 1973 when many pros boycotted the tournament, stood in a soft spotlight in the center of a tent seemingly big enough to cover a football field. He mused, "I don't see so many guests in my life." He read the absence of younger Hall of Famers **Ivan Lendl**, **Boris Becker**, **Ilie Nastase** and **Bjorn Borg** — he missed **Jimmy Connors** and **Mats Wilander** — but dismissed them with an "it doesn't matter."

I see **Margaret Court Smith**, still tall and stately at 62, talking not about her 62 Grand Slam championships but about playing **Chris Evert** in the Virginia Slims of Newport in the early 1970s. "Fog came in and we couldn't see one another from the end of the court," she said.

I see **Frew McMillan**, the South African doubles star, thanking his partners **Shirley Fry-Irwin**, **Ted Schroeder** and **Dick Savitt**, Hall of Famers all, and **Bob Hewitt**, who went into the Hall with McMillan in 1992. And then thanking the United States for being the greatest partner of tennis.

I see **Stan Smith**, 58 now, but still as lean and dashing as he was when he led the U.S. Davis Cup team to victory over Romania before a noisy partisan crowd in Bucharest. I hear him say that "90 percent of my tennis life is here in this room, starting with my wife, **Margie**." He mentioned how **Ken Rosewall** had a famous backhand by Smith, and that **Jack Kramer** once told him that Rosewall hit his backhand by him, too. And that if his later years Rosewall drove his backhand by Smith's son, **Ramsay**, who played college tennis at Duke. "Ken Rosewall is truly a man of many generations," Smith said. "The Aussies were a big part of my life. They were terrific players and great sportsmen." He also acknowledged Hall of Famers and former Davis Cup captains **Tony Trabert**, **Dennis Ralston** and **Arthur Ashe**, plus **Donald Dell**, another Davis Cup captain and friend of the Hall.

And I see **Chris Evert**, shimmering in black, relating that Hall of Famer **Pam Shriver**, a staunch ally of the HOF, desperately wanted to attend but was expecting her first child any minute. "I talked to her today, and she was so sorry she missed it," Evert said. She recalled her 30-year relationship with Cheney and that she played World Team Tennis in Phoenix with **Brian Cheney**, Dodo's son.

Evert got the biggest laugh of the night when she wondered "if Dodo, when she missed a ball, said, 'You dodo!'" She said she never met a nicer guy than Edberg. "What a gentleman on the court," Evert also said. Graf was the greatest player of the last 25 years and that the Aussies "were great friends to everyone."

And I see **Bud Collins**, the Hall of Fame journalist of florid prose and floral clothes. He poked fun at himself Friday night when recalling that **Fred Stolle** wondered if they also made the slacks. Collins was wearing for men — concluding the evening with a perfect summation. "This was the most extraordinary tennis experience of my life. I'm glad for those of you not in the Hall of Fame that you could share this evening tonight."

If there's a DVD coming, then thousands of tennis fans can share the highlights of one amazing tennis weekend.

**Drop shots**

The 22nd annual Todd Morsili New England Clay Court Championships kicked off Monday at Roger Williams Park and will wrap up tomorrow, weather permitting. The tournament is as popular as ever with 306 entrants. Another big junior show will come to town next month. The New England Open is scheduled for Aug. 16-20 at Brown University and Moses Brown. The biggest adult tournament in Rhode Island is coming next week. The 40th annual Rhode Island Metropolitan Championships will run July 21-25 at Roger Williams Park. The B.C. tournaments will start Wednesday, July 21, and the A tournament Friday, July 23. The event is open to men and women and will feature singles and doubles. Contact **Dick Ernst** at (401) 785-0532 to enter the A and **Anthony Bugge** at (508) 641-3378 to enter the B or C. The A singles deadline is next Monday. ... The Hall of Fame picked up \$50,000 from the doubles exhibition Sunday morning. **John McEnroe** and **Tony Roche** beat **Agassi** and **Laver**. The exhibition could become a perennial part of induction weekend. ... Campbell's picked up its option and will sponsor the Hall of Fame Championships the next two years.

Contact Mike Szostak at mszostak@projo.com

MIKE SZOSTAK  
ON THE  
COURTS



love of future Hall of Famer Andre Agassi for his wife, the incomparable Steffi Graf.



Not many people had more fun at the Hall of Fame's 50th Anniversary bash last weekend than tennis great Rod Laver did.

## Lunnie is upset by Bryant's Smith

BY PAUL KENYON  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

CRANSTON — Brendan Smith got his wish yesterday. And it turned out to be every bit as much fun as he hoped it would be.

The Bryant College junior provided a major upset — the only real upset — on the first day of match play in the R.I. Golf Association Amateur

R.I.  
AMATEUR  
GOLF

Championship at Alpine. The 20-year-old, who lives in North Attleboro and plays out of Pawtucket Country Club, shocked Wannamisset's Bill Lunnie, a two-time Stroke Play champion, 1 up, in the second round.

Results, pairings, Page D6

Everywhere else, veterans were winning. In fact, the seven others who advanced to this morning's quarterfinals, led by former champions George Pine, Ben Tuthill and Charlie Blanchard, read like a roster of the state's best.

Smith was the only new face to survive, and he did it by winning one of the best matches of the day.

Smith came out flying, winning the first two holes. Lunnie, the second seed after tying for low score in qualifying, appeared to take control when he won four holes, building a 2-up lead by the time the players made the turn. As with just about every other match, form was being followed. Lunnie has been one of the state's best for a decade. Smith had never even reached match play. He was happy just to play Lunnie.

"I just wanted a chance to play against one of the best players," Smith said. A graduate of Bishop Feehan High's strong program, he has been battling to get a regular spot in the lineup for coach Archie Boulet on Bryant's Division II power.

"Hope he sees what I'm doing," Smith said. Smith hung in even after Lunnie went up by two. Smith pulled even, then fell behind again, then tied it. The priv-



JOURNAL/JOHN TREIDAH

Defending champion Mike Soucy blasts out of the sand at the 15th hole yesterday before losing a 19-hole heartbreaker to Billy Auger, who hit an amazing shot out of the trees on 18 to stay alive.

otal hole was the par-3 15th, where Smith rolled in a wide-breaking 20-foot putt for birdie to take the lead.

"After that, I just tried to play conservative," he said. He ran off three straight pars, matching the pars Lunnie had on the last three holes for the upset.

Smith joins an elite club. The other seven quarterfinalists would make for a terrific RIGA all-star team. They are Pine, Tuthill, Blanchard, Rob Grossguth, Billy Auger, John Auclair and Jim Stallman, all regulars in this position.

Pine, whose numerous titles include two Amateurs, became a winner when Smith eliminated Lunnie. Since he outlasted Lunnie, with whom he had tied in qualifying, it made Pine the medalist. Pine beat David Apuzzo, 3 and 2, in the first round. He was 2-under as he topped Danny Blessing, 4

and 3, in the second round.

Pine will meet Auger, the reigning player of the year, in the quarters. Auger had two thrillers. He first eliminated defending champion Mike Soucy in 19 holes, a match in which Auger had to blast out of trees on the 18th hole to stay alive.

"It got through the pine tree and about 20 feet into the rough," Auger said. He then hit a 3-iron on the green, salvaged a halve and won on the 19th. In the second round, he squeezed past two-time Interscholastic League champion David Marino, 1 up. Auger was 2-under for the match.

The other match in the top half of the bracket has 2000 champion Tuthill going against Grossguth, the beaten finalist last year.

Tuthill beat Andy Calzone, 4 and 3, and then was 1-under in eliminating John Droben, 3 and 2.

Grossguth also was strong, overpowering Brad Valois, 3 and 2, and Mark Devine, 6 and 4. He was 3-under against Devine.

Smith goes against John Auclair this morning. Auclair reached the quarters for the fifth time, topping good friend Dan Pilkington, 2 up, and then Michael Carroll, 3 and 2.

Blanchard was at his best in the morning, running off seven birdies in topping Jason Resmini, 5 and 3. After lunch, he took control late as he ousted Hall of Famer, Paul Quigley, 2 and 1.

Blanchard will meet Stallman, who had one of the most impressive stretches of all, breaking open a tie match with George Donnell in the second round by winning 9, 10, 11 and 12.

"I hit a good shot on nine and then just started hitting it great," Stallman said.

## Feula edges Mathieu, retains crown

BY ROBERT LEE  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Defending champion Anthony Feula approached the green on the first playoff hole of the RIPA Junior Golf Championships at Button Hole Golf Course yesterday, with a huge smile on his face.

**RIPA JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Mathieu found trouble on the second playoff hole, the par-3 9th, hitting his ball short and into a sand trap. Feula, meanwhile, stuffed his iron shot to within 10 feet.

"I didn't think that it was going to bite," Feula said of his shot. "I thought it was going to roll to the back of the green."

Mathieu's ensuing chip from the sand trap overshot the hole and the ball landed in the rough. His third attempt came up about nine feet short. Feula then canned his 10-foot birdie putt to win the match.

Feula's two birdies in the playoff rounds were his only ones of the day. "I wasn't there mentally," Feula said of his performance prior to the playoffs. "Everything that could go wrong, did go wrong."

But his previous experience served to help his cause. "My junior days are almost over," Button Hole head pro Ryan Porter said of Feula. "He is

and it has never gone in."

"He put the pressure on me to make the putt," said Feula, 16.

Feula came through in the clutch. He calmly stroked his putt in for birdie to send the match to a second playoff hole.

"I just whacked it and it went in," Feula said.

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But his previous experience served to help his cause. "My junior days are almost over," Button Hole head pro Ryan Porter said of Feula. "He is

ready to move on to bigger and better things."

It was the first time in the history of the RIPA Junior Golf Championships that the winner was decided by a playoff hole. Playing with a sprained finger, Ryan Mass, 12, fired a 9-over-par 36 to finish third.

"I just wanted to come out and have fun," Mass said. "I didn't expect to do as well as I did so I'm happy."

Eighteen golfers ranging in age from 8 to 16 took part in yesterday's tournament. They were grouped in threesomes along with an RIPA pro.

"We help coach them along, not necessarily only with their game, but a lot with course etiquette, too," Porter said. "That's one of the biggest things — just trying to teach the kids how to handle themselves around the course. This is a great opportunity for that."

Porter said the RIPA pro love playing rounds with the kids, many of whom have never played with a pro before.

"It's a lot of fun," he said. "It's a great opportunity for our kids to play nine holes on the course with a pro, under good supervision. You can't get much better than that. We are here for the kids."

## Armstrong gains time; Frenchman takes stage

SAINT-FLOUR, France — Seven seconds.

That may not seem like much, but in the Tour de France, the advantage Lance Armstrong gained over two rivals yesterday could be an important step in the Texan's bid for a record sixth straight crown.

At a minimum, Armstrong struck a psychological blow by showing his 32-year-old legs still have enough zip after the Tour's longest stage to outshine Tyler Hamilton and Roberto Heras — former teammates raring to dethrone him.

But Armstrong's main rival, Jan Ullrich, was able to keep up. The German, a Tour winner in 1997 and five-time runner-up, stayed with Armstrong in a sprint to the finish of the first mountain stage. They ended up with the same time.

The glory on Bastille Day went to Frenchman Richard Virenque, who took his seventh stage victory of a spotted career with a strong solo ride, and French champion Thomas Voelcker, who retained the overall lead.

Armstrong still trails Voelcker by 9 minutes and 35 seconds. The 25-year-old Frenchman displayed his resilience by riding toward the front of main pack for much of the 147-mile trek from Lamoignon and by outpacing Armstrong at the finish.

Voelcker placed fifth, Armstrong sixth and Ullrich 15th — the last in a group of 36 riders who finished together 5 minutes and 19 seconds behind Virenque's mark of 6 hours and 24 seconds. Other Armstrong rivals Ivan Basso and Juan Mayas also finished in that bunch.

Armstrong's burst of speed on the uphill finish was to ensure that riders with him didn't open up a gap and gain time. In doing so, he left Hamilton and Heras trailing in a second group of 36 riders who finished seven seconds back.

If the Tour is close, that time may prove precious. The 101-year-old race's narrowest winning margin remains American Greg Lemond's defeat of Frenchman Laurent Fignon in 1988. Last year, Armstrong beat Ullrich by just 61 seconds.

Overall, Armstrong extended his advantage over Hamilton to 43 seconds and over Heras to 1 minute, 52 seconds. Ullrich



France's Richard Virenque rode tall in the saddle for his country yesterday, winning the 10th stage of the Tour de France on Bastille Day.

## Twellman propels Revolution

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FOXBORO — Taylor Twellman scored a pair of second-half goals as the New England Revolution beat the Chicago Fire last night, 3-1.

New England (44-4) extended Chicago's winless streak to six matches (0-4-2) and moved within two points of the fourth-place Fire in the Eastern Conference.

Twellman scored his second goal of the season in the 52nd minute, on a give-and-go with Clint Dempsey. He added a goal in the 67th minute with a header off a corner kick by Jose Canele.

Chicago (46-6) took the lead in the first half on a goal by Andy Williams in the 40th minute. New England tied the game in the 47th minute when Dempsey converted a header off a cross by Richie Baker.

Twellman was ejected for a flagrant foul on Williams in the 90th minute.

REVS  
3  
FIRE  
1

NEXT GAME  
Saturday at  
Columbus  
7:30 p.m.

# It's giant (Pirie) vs. giant-killer (Smith) today

BY PAUL KENYON  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

**CRANSTON** — As George Pirie and Brenden Smith proved yesterday, there is no age limit on displays of athletic excellence, just a determination to win.

A 20-year-old college kid, facing a situation he's never seen before, can put on a fabulous display of all those traits, as Smith did. And a 54-year-old perennialist, who has been through the grinder many times before, can muster the wherewithal to do it still again, as Pirie did.

**R.I. AMATEUR** — Pirie and Smith needed everything they had to survive a terrific day of competition in the R.I. Amateur Championship at Alpine and earn berths in today's 36-hole title match.

Smith, a Bryant College junior, continued one of the great upset runs in recent R.I. Golf Association history, first topping veteran John Acland, 3 and 2, in the quarterfinals, and then coming from behind and shocking Charlie Blanchard, 1 up, in the afternoon semis.

Smith, who had never led Blanchard when he hit his 9-iron approach from 140 yards to within three feet on the 18th hole and made the putt for birdie.

Pirie's day was equally outstanding. He first came from two holes down and edged Billy Auger, the reigning player of the year, in 20 holes. In the semis, Pirie was 2 down with 3 to play against Rob Grossguth, another frequent contender. He birdied both the 18th and 17th to pull even, then won on the 20th with still another birdie.

It all set up a giant versus giant-killer match over 36 holes today at Alpine.

Pirie, who won the Amateur in both 1989 and 1994, added to his legend as a competitor with his two overtime victories. He trailed 2 down in both.

"I like to grind with the best of them," he said. "I love the competition. This is the best today. I played two awesome guys, two guys I like very much. That's the hard part in this tournament. We're such a small, close-knit group and unfortunately there has to be only one winner."

He saved his best for last. He was 2-down heading to the 16th

against Grossguth. He made an eight-footer for bird to win 16 and then a 20-footer on 17. The 17th was especially impressive.

"The wind was howling right to left. I was in the rough," he said. "I cut it. I put out spin on it to hold it into the wind. I wanted that one. I liked that one."

He and Grossguth halved 18 with pars and the 19th, too. The 20th, the par-5 second, figured to be in Grossguth's favor. Grossguth is one of the longest hitters in the state. He had birdied three of the four par-5s in regulation (yet had won only one because Pirie also birdied two). But while Grossguth parred the 20th, it was Pirie who got home on the 521-yard hole with a driver and free wood and two-putted for birdie and the victory.

It was a crushing blow for Grossguth, who has come so close so often in this event. Pirie also had beaten him in 20 holes in the semis four years ago.

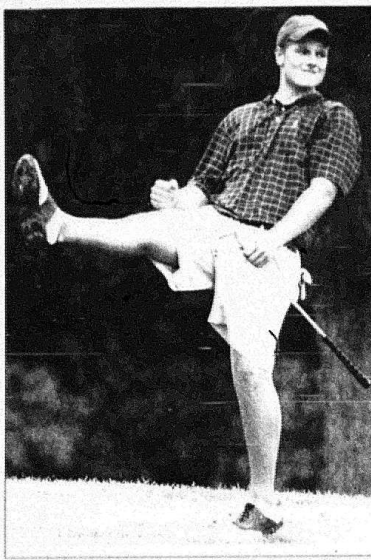
Smith is the newcomer. As he met with Blanchard after their match, Smith put out his hand and said, as they shook hands, "Good playing, Mr. Blanchard."

Smith, who lives in North Attleboro and plays out of Pawtucket, is not just polite. He showed he has both the game and the determination, especially in his shocker over Blanchard.

"I've just been having a good week, trying to take one shot at a time," Smith said. "If I hit a bad one, I try not to let it bother me like it would in stroke play."

He had a few bad ones against Blanchard, hitting drives into the trees on 5, 7 and 16. He lost both 5 and 7 to Blanchard birdies. Because of those holes, Blanchard, who won all five R.I.G.A. majors two years ago, led throughout even though he did not play his best.

Smith was only 1 down as the pair played 16. There, he again drove into the trees while Blanchard was straight down the middle on the 193-yard hole. Blanchard looked poised to finally deal the decisive blow. Instead, it



Brenden Smith employs some body language in trying to direct his putt into the cup on the 14th green yesterday.

went the other way. Smith punched out of the woods and then hit his third, from 140 yards, to within two feet and saved par. Blanchard had an unpleasant surprise when he got to his tee shot.

"It was in a dym," he said. "I thought it would jump out of there and it didn't." His wedge ended up short of the green and he could not get up and down. Instead of winning the hole, he lost it. Instead of being 2 up, he was tied.

On the 400-yard 17th, Blanchard saved par with a terrific shot from the greenside bunker. Smith hit his approach to within three feet, but the putt for birdie slid low and the hole was halved.

On the 438-yard 18th, Blanchard parred. It was the youngster who supplied the winning putt. Smith hit a perfect drive, then punched a 9 iron that landed, two feet in front of the hole, nearly

# Jones rebounds with solid victory in the long jump

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Marion Jones finally allowed herself to smile. And even to sob.

Showing her familiar athleticism, Jones needed just two attempts last night to win the long jump and wipe out many of the doubts about her chances at the Summer Olympics — or whether she even made it to Athens.

The sudden revival was enough to bring back her trademark smile — after weeks of battling drug accusations and struggling to regain the form that earned her five medals at the 2000 Sydney Games.

The smile did not come easily, and Jones refused to talk to reporters after the competition. But she did talk briefly, using a microphone, to the crowd after accepting her winner's medal, and offered a mix of emotions.

"I think I had just a little bit of motivation," she said, laughing so hard her body bent forward. "It feels really good. I had fun out there."

"So many people told me, 'Marion have fun.' It was very hard to keep it together today," she said, her voice cracking as she began to sob. Jones then left the stadium through a side entrance, avoiding the reporters waiting for the news conference that is routine for event winners.

Jones had no expression at all during the competition, even as she was jumping a foot farther than any other competitor.

Wearing a yellow body suit with racing stripes down the sides, she leaped 22 feet, 3/4 inches on her first attempt in the final, the best jump of the four.

Her second jump was even better — 23-1/2, the second-longest in the world this year. She

briefly nodded at her mark in the sand, then walked away expressively.

Three nights after being unable to reach 21 feet on any of her three jumps in the qualifying round, Jones surpassed 22 feet on all six jumps yesterday in winning the competition. Grace Upshaw and Aikia McKinney claimed the other spots on the U.S. team.

After her final jump, Jones raised both arms and flashed a big smile as she bowed to the crowd. Then she jogged over to hug Upshaw, and waved again to the crowd.

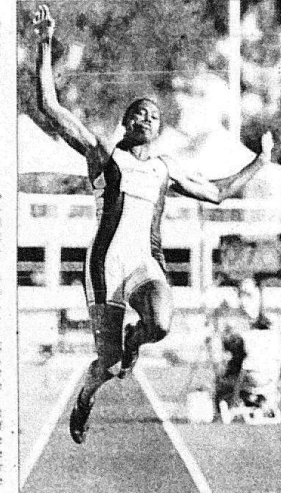
"She had a few days to recover from all the 100s, both physically, mentally and emotionally," said her coach, Dan Pfaff.

Because of an off-the-track development, there's now a chance that Jones may get to defend her Olympic title in the 100.

Tom Edwards, who finished second in the 100 at the Olympic trials, tested positive for a banned stimulant in April and could face a two-year ban that would prevent her from competing in Athens.

Edwards says she unknowingly took the substance at a meet in Martinique, and that she will try to argue for a lesser penalty during an arbitration hearing next Monday. If she is found guilty and she is banned from the Olympics, her spot in the 100 would go to two-time Olympic 100 champion Gail Devers — who finished fourth Saturday. But Devers always has wanted to win an Olympic title in the 100-meter hurdles, so she conceivably could pass up the chance to run in the 100 to focus on the hurdles.

In that case, Edwards' spot would go to the fifth-place finisher in the Olympic trials — Jones.



Marion Jones takes flight on one of her jumps in the finals of the long jump at the U.S. Olympic Trials yesterday.

# British Open

Continued from Page D1

(70), Mickelson (73) and the rest of the Americans.

The list of leaders ran a dozen deep before anyone from the United States could be found. Scott Verplank, Rich Beem, Skip Kendall, Kenny Perry and Steve Lowery checked in at 69. It was the first time since the 1959 British Open that an American was not inside the top 10.

Woods was happy just to break par, making two par saves on the back nine and following that with a birdie to break par in the opening round of a major for the first time since the 1997 PGA Championship.

"As easy as you'll ever see it," Woods said about Royal Troon. Casey had to work for his 66, especially on the back nine. He chipped in from just off the green at No. 10, holed a 30-foot birdie on 11 and made another 30-footer on the par-5 18th after driving into the rough.

He finished with a 15-foot birdie on the 18th that raised the hopes of a British gallery that has gone five years without one of its own

holding the claret jug.

"I still left quite a few shots on the golf course," Casey said. "It could have been very, very low."

Gary Evans and Ernie Els felt the same way.

Evans had 227 yards to the hole on the par-5 fourth when his 5-iron shot ended up a ridge to the green and disappeared into the cup for a double eagle. It was the first hole-in-one since Greg Owen in 2001 at Royal Lytham & St. Anne's.

"I gave myself three chances the first three holes, and I didn't make any of them," Evans said. "And when I brought one in, it was fantastic. Happy days."

Evans made no more progress the rest of the day, however, and finished at 3-under 68 along with a large group that included Vijay Singh and the British-Amateur champion Stuart Wilson.

Els also was plodding along when his fortunes changed with one swing, a pitching wedge from 123 yards on the par-5 eighth hole, known as the Postage Stamp because of its tiny green.

"That was beautiful, I tell you," Els said.

He had other words to describe another par 3, the 222-yard 17th where the South African hit a shot in the bunker for a double

bogey.

From such a highlight on 8 to such a lowlight on 17, it's amazing," Els said. "But I shot 69 and I've got to take that. Anything under 70 is good in a major championship. It's not a bad start."

Also at 69 were the U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen, Darren Clarke and Colin Montgomerie, who overcame a double bogey-bogey stretch around the turn.

There was an eerie calm along the Firth of Clyde in the morning, and the only trouble from the breeze was that it couldn't make up its mind which way to blow.

And while the scores weren't outrageous, there were plenty of players bunched up around the lead. More than one-third of the field — 56 players — were at par or better, all of them only five shots behind.

And while the wind made it easy, Royal Troon still found a way to punish the bad shots.

Alistair Forsyth of Scotland was poised to join the leaders until he bogeyed his final two holes. Clarke, a runner-up at Troon seven years ago, also had a chance until he hit a 5-iron from 191 yards on the final hole and landed in disgust as it went over the green and landed next to the clubhouse — out of bounds.

# Gibson pacing B.C. Open

By KATHY DAVIS

Kelly Gibson completed the soggy first round of the B.C. Open and had just one wish.

"I hope a hurricane comes tomorrow and there's a one-round winner," Gibson joked yesterday after an 8-under 64 placed him alone atop the leaderboard. "Would they do it? Why not? I'll take the cash."

Although showers caused a 28-minute delay on the En-Joe Golf Club course in Endicott, N.Y., the first round was completed with Gibson holding a one-shot lead over rookie Camilo Villegas, Todd Fischer, John Morgan, last week's runner-up, and Kevin Stadler.

Brett Quigley, Garrett Willis, Brenden Pappas, and Roland Thatcher were another shot back. Tommy Tolles and 1997 B.C. Open champion Gabriel Hjertstedt were among 11 players at 67, including defending champion Craig Stadler, who

## THE LOCALS

BRITISH OPEN			Off
+/–	Yesterday	lead	
–3	Brad Faxon	35–39	74 8
B.C. OPEN			
–6	Brett Quigley	34–32	66 2
E	Billy Andrade	39–32	72 8
PETE DYE			
WEST VIRGINIA CLASSIC			
–3	Brad Adonis	34–35	69 6
–2	P.H. Morgan	38–36	74 11

couldn't match son Kevin on this day.

Heavy rains cut short Wednesday's pro-am and a couple of downpours early yesterday finally forced play to be stopped in late morning for course maintenance. But the changing conditions still were ideal for scoring and tournament officials added a helping hand. They allowed players to lift, clean and place over the first two rounds.

# U.S. sprinter Edwards may be facing suspension

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Sprinter Tom Edwards, an outspoken supporter of U.S. anti-doping efforts in track and field, is the latest athlete to face a possible suspension for testing positive for a banned substance.

In an interview yesterday, Edwards attributed the positive test on a glucose supplement that, unbeknownst to her, contained the stimulant as an additive.

Edwards earned an Olympic berth with a second-place finish in the women's 100 meters at the U.S. Olympic track and field trials, but could be bounced from the team. The reigning world champion at 100 meters, Edwards tested positive for the stimulant nikethamide at a meet in Fort-de-France, Martinique, on April 24, the International Amateur Athletics Federation announced yesterday.

Edwards' case will be heard Monday by a U.S. arbitration panel in Orange County. Under the World Anti-Doping Agency code, she would face a two-year ban unless she can persuade the panel that there were sufficient mitigating circumstances to warrant only a warning. If the panel rules against her, Edwards said, she would take her case to the International Court of Arbitration for Sport. The CAS find-

ing would be binding.

She said she has been running for two months knowing she could be banned from the Olympics.

"It would be horrible," she said, her voice breaking with emotion. "I've worked so hard to get to this point and I don't know what I would do if I had to sit out the Olympics."

The glucose supplement that she purchased at a local store, Edwards said, adding the container and remainder of the glucose has been presented as evidence in her case.

The substance known as "Coramine Glucose" is sold only in Vietnam and parts of France, according to a statement released by Edwards' agent, Emanuel Hudson.

Edwards, who finished second to LaTasha Colander in the 100 final last Saturday, is scheduled to run the 200, with preliminaries beginning today.

"Now I go and get ready for the 200," she said, "and then get ready for my hearing on Monday — and get prepared for a fight."



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## the LINEUP



### ARMSTRONG MAKES THE FIRST MOVE

The Tour de France champion, above, took a big step toward a record sixth straight crown yesterday with a display of climbing in the Pyrenees that left contenders dazed. Jan Ullrich, Tyler Hamilton, Iban Mayo and Roberto Heras saw their dreams of dethroning the Texan fade as Lance Armstrong's blue jersey disappeared into the distance on a punishing ascent to the La Mongie ski station. Armstrong moved from sixth to second in the overall standings following a ride in which he was runner-up to stage winner Ivan Basso of Italy. **C6**

### ELS, OFFICIAL SMOOTH IT OVER

When a USGA official suggested that Ernie Els gave up in the final round of the U.S. Open upon seeing the severe conditions at Shinnecock Hills, Els was furious. Yesterday at the British Open, Els got an apology from that official. **C2**

### OLIVEIRA HEADLINES BOXING CARD

New Bedford's "Sugar" Ray Oliveira and Frankie "The Surgeon" Randall will fight for the vacant International Boxing Union world welterweight title on Friday, Aug. 6. The match will headline "Clash of Cash: Under The Stars," to be held outdoors at the new Fraser Field in Lynn, Mass. **C4**



### THORNTON, GONCHAR STICK WITH BRUIINS

While several of their free-agent teammates left for greener pastures, the Bruins' Joe Thornton and Sergei Gonchar, above, have filed for salary arbitration, guaranteeing that they'll be with Boston next season. **C7**

### COMING TOMORROW

John Gillyool profiles the Providence Journal's 2004 Honor Roll Boy and Honor Roll Girl, as well as the winner of the Dick Reynolds Memorial Correspondent Award. Also included will be the names and pictures of all the nominees.

### ALSO INSIDE

Auto racing **C5**  
Olympic track **C6**  
Baseball **C10-12**  
Lotteries **C11**

## Cubs reportedly in talks with Sox for Nomar

The three-way deal that would bring pitcher Randy Johnson to Boston may not be dead after all.

**THE BOSTON GLOBE**  
ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Chicago Cubs, who would like a big run-producer for the stretch drive, remain hopeful of trading for Nomar Garciaparra, but feel their chances of acquiring the Red Sox shortstop are "50-50," according to a major-league executive with direct knowledge of the talks between the clubs.

The Cubs, the executive said yesterday, believe the Sox would move Garciaparra only if Arizona left-hander Randy Johnson comes to Boston as part of a three-way deal that has been a source of constant speculation over the last several days. Earlier in the week, Sox sources downplayed that possibility, but the major-league executive insisted the talks are ongoing between Red Sox GM Theo Epstein and Cubs GM Jim Hendry, though he rated the chances of such a deal as higher earlier in the week. A Sox source said last night

that he did not see a deal as imminent. "If it happens at all, it will take a few days," he said. The last several days the Red Sox have attempted to strike a deal with Seattle for shortstop Rich Aurilia, but it appeared yesterday Aurilia, who was designated for assignment last week, will wind up with the Padres. Aurilia's preference was to return to the National League and remain on the West Coast.

**RED SOX BEAT ANGELS**  
The Red Sox won last night's game in Anaheim, 4-2, behind Pedro Martinez. For a complete report, go to [www.projo.com/redsox](http://www.projo.com/redsox).

**NEXT GAME**  
Tonight at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

Aurilia was a disappointment after signing as a free agent with the Mariners, batting just .241 with 4 home runs and 28 RBIs in 73 games. Three years ago, playing for the Giants, Aurilia hit 37 home runs and drove in 97 runs, but hit 28 home runs in 2002 and 2003 combined. The Sox saw him filling a utility role, but could not guarantee

him significant playing time. Aurilia's agent, Barry Axelrod, said he asked Epstein about the Garciaparra rumors. "If that happened tomorrow, Rich is there, no question about it," Axelrod said. "But it might never happen, or it will happen in a month." Further complicating the Sox efforts to acquire Johnson is the Yankees' desire to land the Arizona lefty, which presumably took on more urgency yesterday when veteran right-hander Mike Mussina went on the 15-day disabled list.

SEE **NOMAR, C12**

## R.I. AMATEUR GOLF

# Pirie makes it three, joins elite

## Three-time champ ends run of upsets by Brenden Smith

BY PAUL KENYON  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

CRANSTON

It's not as if George Pirie needed to win another state championship to put his name in the record books. He already has done more than enough to leave his mark. What Pirie did yesterday, in beating Brenden Smith, 6 and 4, in the 36-hole title match of the 99th R.I. Golf Association Amateur at Alpine, was to elevate himself another notch.

"I really wanted to win a third time. That's a special club," Pirie said. "I'm so glad to have this third one. That's pretty important."

There is a short, but very impressive, list of players to win the Amateur three times. In this generation, Pirie joins Paul Quigley and Mike Soucy as three-time champs. Before that, it goes back to players like Ronnie Quinn, Bob Kosten and Bobby Allen in the 1950s and '60s. And John Burke, T.S. Taft Jr. and Dan Fairchild before World War II. "I'm a student of the game. I'm big into tradition. I grew up with a lot of those guys you see on that board," Pirie said, nodding toward the championship list. "I caddied for Ronnie Quinn. I caddied for Norm Lutz on occasion. I know who they were. That's part of what makes me go. I want to get there with those guys."

Now he is. At age 34, the periodontist who lives in East



George Pirie, left, gets a handshake from tournament director Joe Sprague after Pirie took his third Amateur title.

In one of his few times of trouble yesterday, George Pirie chips from under a pine tree on the seventh hole in the afternoon round.

JOURNAL PHOTOS/BOB BREIDENBACH



## Brett Quigley knows looseness hard to come by

The punctuation is important here. Pay particular attention, please, to the commas.

**JIM DONALDSON**  
Ready? If Brett Quigley would only play more, like his Uncle Dana, he'd be more successful.

That's wrong. Because it's impossible to play more than Dana Quigley, the "Iron Man" of the Champions Tour, who has a record-setting streak of 251 consecutive events played.

So let's try again.  
SEE **DONALDSON, C2**

## BRITISH OPEN GOLF

# Longshot Kendall leads by 1 after 2nd round

Skip Kendall, the American golfer from Fox Point, Wis., is ranked 369th in the world and is 0-for-310 on the PGA tour.

BY DOUG FERGUSON

**TROON, Scotland** — Skip Kendall would have done just about anything to get to the British Open.

Unlike a slew of Americans who didn't think golf's oldest championship was worth the effort, Kendall saw only opportunity when he played a 36-hole qualifier last month at Congressional, the first of his kind in the United States. Yesterday, he showed them

what they were missing. Kendall holed out from a pot bunker for birdie and rolled in a 56-foot eagle putt on his way to a 5-under 66 at Royal Troon.

### LEADERBOARD

Skip Kendall	69-66-135
Thomas Levet	66-70-136
Barry Lane	69-68-137
K.J. Choi	68-69-137
Michael Campbell	67-71-138
Vijay Singh	68-70-138
Todd Hamilton	71-67-138
Ernie Els	69-69-138
Colin Montgomerie	69-69-138
Mike Weir	71-68-139
Kenny Perry	69-70-139
Retief Goosen	69-70-139
Phil Mickelson	73-66-139
Scott Verplank	69-70-139

giving him a one-shot lead over Thomas Levet of France. "Any time I can try to get in a major championship, I'm going to be there," Kendall said. "These are important to me, to not only test yourself, but to try to win one. And the only way you can do that is to try to get in."

Last year should have been enough to raise anyone's hopes about hoisting the claret jug. Ben Curtis won the British Open in his first shot at a major as the 396th-ranked player in the world. Kendall, 39, is far more accomplished, although the journeyman still is saddled with an 0-for-310 record in his 10 seasons on the PGA Tour.

SEE **OPEN, C2**



Skip Kendall, making a birdie on the 14th hole, leads the British Open after two rounds.



State Amateur champion George Pirie, right, and runner-up Brenden Smith finish up the last hole at yesterday's tournament.

## RIAM

Continued from Page C1

Greenwich and plays out of Valley, also is the oldest player ever to win the title. Just last year, fellow Valley star Soucy won his third at age 50.

Pirie also becomes one of the rare medalists to go all the way, something he sees as a good sign.

"I was worried about this medalist thing. It was like the Red Sox jinx," said Pirie, who tied with Bill Lunnie at 145 for low score in the qualifying. No medalist had gone all the way for a long time. Now it has been done twice in three years. Charlie Blanchard did it two years ago at Pawtucket.

Pirie made sure he did it all by posting an impressive, near-wire-to-wire victory. Smith, a 20-year-old Bryant College junior who had staged a run of upsets in his first-ever appearance in match play, could not keep up with Pirie.

"I've got to give it to him," Smith said. "He just outplayed me today."

Pirie took control early. He won the first hole with a par. Smith then birdied each of the next two. But he did not win either because Pirie birdied them, too.

"He rolled in a beautiful putt for birdie on two and then had another birdie on three before I rolled it in on top of him," Pirie pointed out. "I said, 'I've got a contest here.' His competitive juices were going, which invariably makes him play better."

Smith did manage to pull even after eight holes. A pivotal turn came on the back nine in the morning. Pirie was only 1 up when he hit his approach shots close on 13 and 14, both par 4s, and won them both with birds to go 3 up. He was 4 up at the lunch break.

"The morning match was

tough. He made so many birdies on me," Smith said of Pirie, who had five birdies in that round. "That's good playing."

Pirie, ever the competitor, did not take anything for granted.

"I had a little heartbreak in 2000," he said. "I lost to Ben Tuthill [in the title match]. I didn't know if I'd get another chance for a third one."

That time, Pirie led by two at lunch and three early in the afternoon round before Tuthill came back to win. This time, Pirie did not let up. Smith hung in and was back within three holes through 25 before Pirie rolled in a 12-footer for bird on the 26th. Pirie then won the 27th, too, when Smith bladed a bunker shot well over the green. Smith was 5 down and, against the steady and tenacious Pirie, knew he was in trouble.

"I didn't have the driver in the morning. I did have my irons. In the afternoon, it was just the opposite," the Pawtucket Country Club star said. "Golf is play with what you have today. I didn't have it all. It's tough to win the State Am when you don't have it all."

It's all but impossible against a player such as Pirie who is so consistent. Pirie, also champion in 1989 and 1994, drew on experience to maintain his advantage.

"The more years you put in, the more you learn," Pirie said. "You get stung a few times and you never forget. You don't put yourself in those situations again because it hurts. I've learned to take my time. I don't get rid. I just concentrate."

It is a style — the grit, determination and heart — that will be his legacy. A lot of players win once. Twice proves a point. Three times puts a player among the all-time elite. And that's where Pirie is now.

## THURS<sup>♪</sup>DAYS Just in time to liven up your plans — the LIVE This Weekend section.

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