

Central Ohio GOLFER

April 17 - 30, 2006 • Columbus, Ohio

Central Ohio's comprehensive golf newspaper \$1

Learning the Game, pgs. 8-9

00014223 US 3706 3605
MILLIAM HOLTRY
9205 DUSTIN RD
GALENA OH 43021-9777



Younger, better, lower

College, high school players dominate list of area's lowest handicaps

By Phil Shee

Youth, it's said, is wasted on the young. Apparently, so are low handicaps.

With plenty of free time to hit their home courses on a regular basis during the summer, local high school and collegiate golfers dominate the list of low USGA handicaps in Central Ohio as the 2006 season opens.

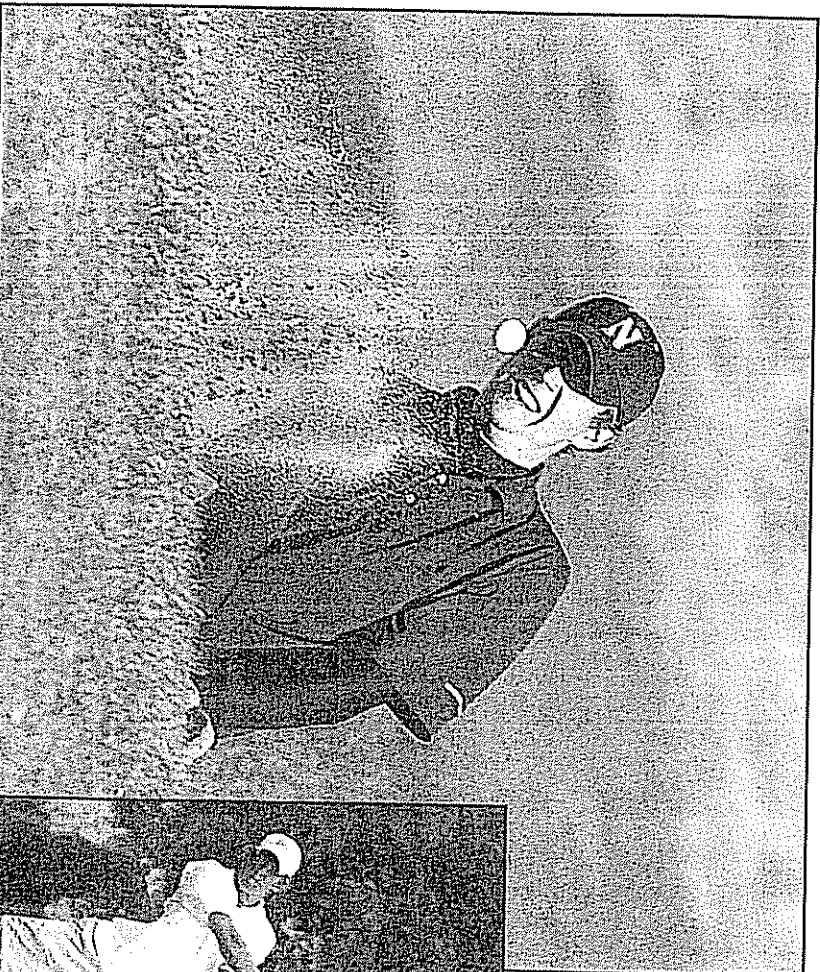
Notable college players such as Chris Wilson (Northwestern, +3.6), Ryan Stekemann (Ohio University, +3.5), Joel Kramer (Virginia Tech, +3.2), Colin Biles (Ohio State, +2.3) and Kyle Reilers (Wake Forest, +0.9), along with former collegiate players Zach Doran (Ohio State, +3.6) and Kyle Monfort (Notre Dame, +3.6) all are Country Club at Munfield members and are among Central Ohio's lowest handicappers.

"They are very good," says CC at Munfield head pro Craigen Pappas. "They play golf every day in the summertime. They're getting a lot of golf in. Golf and school, that's all they do."

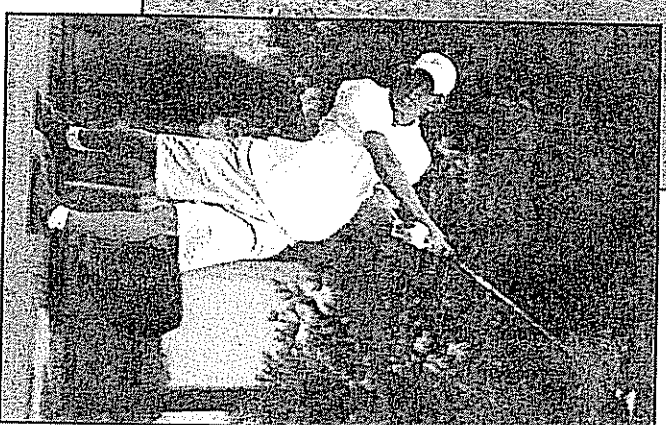
Pappas adds it doesn't hurt that his club is more lenient on junior golfers.

"I think the access afforded them by our board and its members makes a difference," Pappas says. "A lot of places you go, juniors are restricted very heavily. Our board is more lenient. The kids are still restricted, but not to a huge extent. I think the kids feel welcome here. And they're all fairly diligent. They practice hard and they play hard. Six or seven of them are very, very good players and hopefully we'll have a few more come along."

Other current or recent college players fill the ranks of golfers with handicaps below scratch. Worthington Hills Country Club member Kyle Morris (Northwestern, +2.1), Riviera Golf Club member C.J. Gatto (UNLV, +0.9), Munfield Village Golf Club member Tom Miles (TCU, +2.3), Andy Schilling (Ohio Wesleyan, +1.1), Worthington Hills CC member Noah Lucas (Ohio State, +2.6) and Foxfire Golf Club member Zach Sebert



Chris Wilson (above), who plays collegiately for Northwestern and is a member at CC at Munfield, is one of three players that have Central Ohio's lowest handicap, +3.6. Alex Redfield (right), a member at Scioto CC, is one of several area high school players with a low handicap.



File (2)

good as it's going to be for a long time," says top area amateur Ken Kinkopf, who also coaches junior high golf for St. Agatha Catholic School and is the father of Michael Kinkopf. "Look at the district qualifier for the state tournament last year. You had to shoot 304 just to qualify and that course was long and it was cold. That tournament brings all the kids in the area together and I'll bet that score is probably 10, maybe 15 shots under what it normally averages. I like to use that as an indicator."

But Ken Kinkopf hesitates to use handicaps to gauge how good this young crop of players can be. "A lot of scores that go into that handicap are practice rounds on your home course," Ken Kinkopf says.

"Those are the majority of your scores. To me, that doesn't mean much. I think the handicap system for the better players should only be tournament scores because they can be substantiated."

Jim Poppa, executive director of the Columbus District Golf Association and Ohio Golfer the list of handicappers, says while there is a good young crop of golfers coming through the high school ranks, the listed handicaps probably are still a tad inflated.

"They turn in the scores they want to," Poppa

See Lower, page 2

Missile

Red-hot Oberheim 6
The Oberheim men's and women's golf teams are off to scorching starts this spring.

Turf Talk 10
Aerification is a nuisance for golfers, but a necessary evil for golf courses.

Rattlesnake Ridge 16
The private Sunbury golf club has a new clubhouse this spring.

KnickNACs 16
Who says lams and knickers are out of fashion? This group, headed by a Galena man, pays homage to the style and to the late Payne Stewart.

Golfers get eyeful of bright fashion trends this summer

By Josie Rubio

The fairways of Central Ohio aren't exactly the runways of Paris, but that doesn't mean golfers aren't savvy to fashion. Even those golfers who couldn't care less about couture pay attention to golf apparel, as the latest developments in fabric and shoe technology promise to improve the game and provide more comfort during a round. Yet golfers probably



The Adidas "Hot Shot" Tour 360 has cutting-edge technology.

have the worst fashion stereotype of all sports. The image of Al Czervik, Rodney Dangerfield's character in *Caddyshack*, wearing bright pink pants and a loud shirt, is a difficult one to forget. And, while plaid pants may still be OK as a statement from time to time, chances are, you won't see them on the links—or will you? There still are some "fashion-forward," as the industry says, styles. Plus, some look to those professional golfers with

a certain fashion sense, such as Jasper Parvank, who favors J. Lindeberg clothing (and wears the Future Sports Golf Shoe, developed with Puma on the course). Tiger Woods has a collection with Nike, and there's the Greg Norman Collection of golf apparel for men and women. Of course, there are those who still prefer old-fashioned golf knickers (see the KnickNAC Tour story, page 16). But here's a look at what golfers are wearing this spring.

See Fashion, page 3

Sunbury's Rattlesnake Ridge GC to open new clubhouse, practice facility for 2006

By Jim Toms

Rattlesnake Ridge Golf Club, a private, golf-only facility located southeast of Sunbury, is preparing to open its new 11,000-square-foot clubhouse in time for the start of the 2006 golf season.

Designed by Columbus architect James Bean and his son, Carter Bean, the arts and crafts styled clubhouse overlooks Rattlesnake Creek and the par-5 18th hole. It houses a golf shop, men's and women's locker rooms and lounges, a full-service kitchen, indoor and outdoor dining areas and offices.

The general contractor for the building, which took about nine months to construct, was Baker Henning Company of Columbus. Interior design is by Dennis McAvaya & Associates.

A new 20-acre, state-of-the-art practice range will open later this spring. It was designed by Rattlesnake Ridge's original golf course architect, Jodie Kinney, of Columbus, and includes an expansive driving range with benign trees, target greens and practice bunkers.

James Bean, who has designed golf course clubhouses all over the world, says he is very pleased with this facility and thinks Rattlesnake Ridge members will be "thrilled with the new clubhouse."

Bean says he was particularly pleased with the size and efficiency of the clubhouse, appropriate for a small, high-quality private golf club.

"The building is not a large monument, but

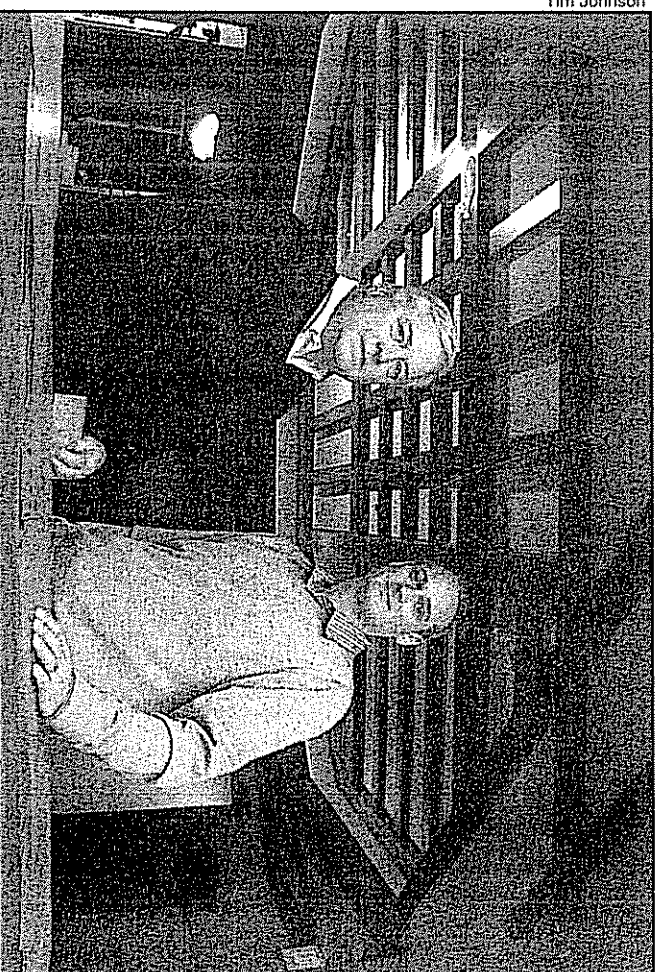
it fits perfectly into the site and embraces it. It's not a fancy building. The natural wood shingles and rich colors really give the clubhouse a cozy atmosphere, and that's exactly what we were trying to accomplish," Bean says. "Max (owner Max Brown) has done everything he promised members he would do—and more. This clubhouse is going to function beautifully for them."

Among James Bean's other projects in Central Ohio are the clubhouse and pavilion at Murfield Village Golf Club and the Jack Nicklaus Museum on the campus of the Ohio State University.

Rattlesnake Ridge, located northeast of New Albany and Westerville at the intersection of State Routes 37 and 605 in southeast Delaware County, opened for play in 2001. It gets its name from Rattlesnake Creek, which runs throughout the property and comes into play on several holes.

The course was purchased by Brown, a Columbus publisher whose publications include *Mid Ohio Golfer*, in December 2003. He says he knew at the time he would need to construct a full-service clubhouse to go with what was already being hailed as an excellent golf course. He says he intends to continue operating the club as a private, affordable, golf-only facility with an emphasis on top-quality course conditioning.

"There were no private, golf-only courses in this part of Central Ohio," Brown says.



Tim Johnson

Architects James Bean (left) and Carter Bean stand inside the new clubhouse at Rattlesnake Ridge Golf Club. The 11,000-square-foot facility will be open for the 2006 season.

"Rattlesnake has gotten great reviews as a golf course in its first four years, and I believe that with the addition of a first-class clubhouse and practice facility it can be one of the best golf experiences in this area."

Galena man leads association dedicated to Payne Stewart's memory, style of dress

By Phillip King

The farther removed you get from an incident, the fuzziier the details become, and the more the vibrant colors and memories of that day fade to gray. It's just human nature.

Consider a case in point: Payne Stewart.

When was the last time you thought about him, about his often amazing play and always amazing attire?

Stewart, only 42 years old, was just a few short months removed from his victory in the 1999 U.S.

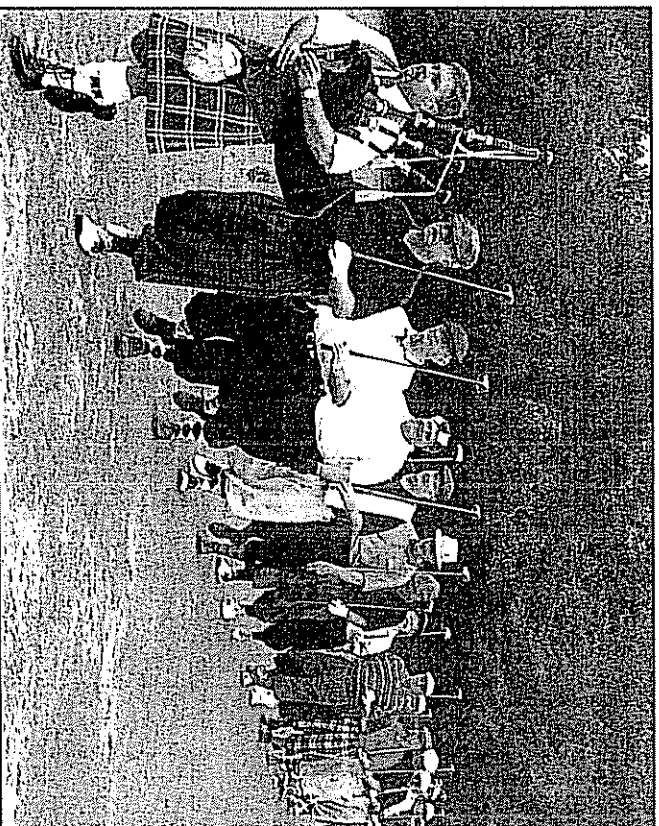
Open when a malfunction on the Learjet that was carrying him and five others left the plane without oxygen, killing all six, including golf course designer Bruce Borkland. The plane traveled nearly halfway across the country with

apparently no conscious person at the controls and eventually crashed into a South Dakota field.

There is, however, a group of men and women determined to honor Stewart's memory in the best way they know how: by playing together as often as they can, and playing just like him.

No, not playing as spectacularly as Stewart played, but golfing while dressed like Stewart.

To become a member of the KnickNAC Tour is not tough. You must promise to have fun. You must promise to honor the best traditions and rules of the game. And you must always, always, play four events wearing knickers and tams. Bill Holtry Jr., a Galena resident, is known



Members of the KnickNAC Tour make quite an entrance when they hit the golf course in knickers and tams.

as the commissioner of the Knicker National Aryle Champions' Tour.

"If we don't have fun then there is something wrong with us," Holtry says. "We're not the best golfers, we're not the worst, but we keep things in perspective. We like to honor the tradition."

There's a bit more to it than just dressing the part, however. For one thing, you must learn to deal with a whole lot of interest from an often amused, frequently baffled, always fascinated general public.

"Whenever we go anywhere the place just stops," says Don Feigert, chief information officer and editor of the group's newsletter. "If

you could picture us being at Bent Tree, and the baggiper starts playing, and we march together to the first tee. And everything... just... stops."

Holtry is a longtime admirer of Stewart. "We've all been Payne fans for years," Holtry says. "The people I ever run into that knew him didn't like him—they loved him as a person. That's a legacy you wish for."

"I remember when he lost the Memorial Tournament when Azinger took it from him (1993) and our hearts dropped. I collect signed autographed pictures of professional golfers and I started collecting these pictures about 10 years ago. Of course the perfect picture to put on the wall is someone in knickers, and I actually have about 10 or 12 pictures of Payne that he signed over the years. Everyone who comes to my house gravitates toward those pictures."

Holtry, now a vice president of IT Tech, says a core group of friends started at DeVry University.

"Years ago about a dozen of us worked together in middle management with DeVry," Holtry says. "One thing led to another, and now most of us work at different colleges or businesses but we have always maintained our friendship."

"Golf has been a vehicle for our friendship," Feigert says. "We would get together a few times a year, sometimes on short notice, in Columbus, Atlanta, or wherever."

During the summer of 2004, Holtry's father, Bill Holtry Sr., sent his son an interesting photo, of the senior Holtry and four fellow

golfers in unconventional dress. As the tour's official history reads, "It was a picture of Mr. Holtry and four golf partners all decked out in knickers, tams and argyle socks, just for the fun of it and to honor Payne Stewart for a day."

That photo inspired Holtry Jr. to gather his friends for what became their first-ever golf outing in full knickers and tams attire at Bent Tree. "All of us dressed up except for three, and we got so much attention those three were soon wishing they had," he recalls. "We decided to start a club, and we are now at around 100 members in nine states. Our goal is to have several thousand wear knickers and play golf. We started a scholarship fund; we want to have a financial function at each outing, and award a scholarship at the end of each year. We'll let the membership vote on where it goes but it's got to be a golf-related scholarship."

Among the upcoming events for the tour is a two-day event, June 9-10, with the first day at Cooks Creek Golf Course, the second at Chapel Hill Golf Course.

Enquiries for new memberships are encouraged via the website. And Holtry Jr. says wearing those togs isn't as tough as you might think.

"I thought I'd never where knickers, frankly," he says. "But it's been so much fun, and they're comfortable to play in. They have big pockets, you don't have to worry about getting mud on your pants because your socks go up to your knees, and you look good. We always say we don't play well but we look good."

And, while doing that, Holtry Jr. says the tour honors a golfing great whose life was cut far too short. As the group's web page at knicknacour.com states, "For fun, for tradition, for Payne."

"He was doing something nobody else thought they should and he carried the tradition," Holtry Jr. says. "We are not going to let that die."