Mulligans

News, Notes, Quotes & Anecdotes from the Local Golfing Community

Last week, 147 top junior golfers from around the state met at Caledonia Country Club for the annual New York State Junior Girls and Boys Championships.

Organized by the New York State Golf Association, play began with an 18-hole stroke play qualifier on Tuesday, Aug. 7, with the low 16 juniors advancing to match play in the Junior (boys ages 15-17) and Girls (17 and under) Championships, and the low eight qualifiers advancing to match play in the Boys (14 and under) Championships.

In the Junior Championship, two Rochester-area juniors advanced to match play, Tony DiBitetto of Ridgmont Country Club, who shot a 74 in qualifying, and Ben Dobrzynski of Monroe Golf Club, who posted a 75 in qualifying.

In the Junior division final, DiBitetto met New York State High School champion Marco Poccia of MacGregor Links Country Club in Saratoga Springs, with Poccia emerging as the New York Junior Champion with a 3-and-1 decision.

In the Girls Championship, four local players advanced to match play, including: Tessa Teachman and Jessica Piorkoski, both from Webster Golf Club; Melissa Agostinelli of Penfield Country Club; and Christina Pachuta.

In the first round of match play, Teachman was the only local golfer to advance, defeating Piorkoski by a 3-and-2 margin, while Agostinelli lost to Gabrielle DiMora, 1-up and Pachuta lost to Jennifer Bells, 6-and-5.

In the quarterfinal round, Teachman defeated DiMora, 2-up, but then lost to defending champion Nannette Hill of Pelham, 5-and-4. Hill went on to capture her second consecutive New York State Girls Junior title in the finals.

Finally, in the Boys Championship, no local player advanced to match play, although Elliot Dolby-Shields of Geneseo Valley and Mike Schwert of Lakeside Country Club both missed qualifying by two shots. The New York State Boys title eventually went to Nick Park of Ithaca, who defeated his brother, Alex Park, in the finals.